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By UNNNY



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Budget for uncertain times

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What the Budget must bring

It must increase rural investment, rationalise GST, income and corporate taxes

ADHAAR & PAN LINKING

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MORNING FM

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at his North Block office on the eve of the Union Budget, in New Delhi on Wednesday. Renuka Puri

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN THE BUDGET TODAY

- CHANGES IN INCOME-TAX AND CORPORATE TAX RATES
- CAPITAL GAINS TAX ON STOCK MARKET INVESTMENTS
- CHANGES IN THE DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTION TAX
- ADHERENCE TO GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL DEFICIT TARGETS

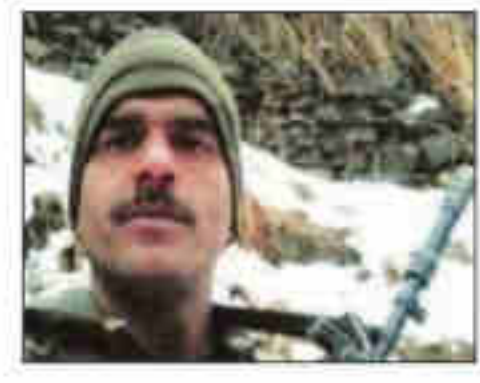
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Bad food: NIA probed BSF man for ‘foreign contacts,’ found nothing

SOFIAHSAN
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 31

BSF CONSTABLE Tej Bahadur Yadav, who was sacked last April after he posted video clips on social networking sites purportedly showing poor quality food being served to security forces personnel posted in frontier areas adjoining Pakistan, was probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for possible “connection with foreign contacts”.

The NIA looked at Yadav’s social media profiles as well as his



Was sacked in April last year

call detail records, but did not find anything. The NIA probe report is among the documents submitted by

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No CJI meeting held, judges propose roster reform panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

A SCHEDULED meeting between four senior judges of the Supreme Court, who went public with their criticism against Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, and the CJI did not materialise Wednesday with one of them, Justice J Chelameswar, on leave for the day.

Sources, meanwhile, said the crisis after the January 12 press conference by Justices Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, Madan B Lokur and Kurian Joseph remained unresolved. With Justice Chelameswar set to

EXPRESS NETWORK

- SOHRABUDDIN CASE: ANOTHER WITNESS TURNS HOSTILE
- DISCUSSING CJI IMPEACHMENT PROPOSAL WITH PARTIES: SIBAL

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be away on Thursday, too, this makes the prospect of the meeting unlikely till next week.

Sources said that at the previous meeting, held last week, the moot point under discussion was a proposal from the Chief Justice that all five judges must come out together publicly and state that all issues were now being resolved. Sources say the four judges declined to do so until they saw visible and tangible progress on “issues” raised by them, and “as promised by the Chief Justice.”

The four judges who raised concerns over the allocation of cases are learnt to have proposed the setting up of a committee comprising judges who would be Chief Justices in the future to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

First black money case against Catholic church, Cardinal under cloud

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 31

A CHURCH panel probing land transactions in the archdiocese of Ernakulam has recommended action against Cardinal George Alencherry under Church and civil law for causing losses to the diocese. This is the first such recommendation — the case also involves black money — for the Catholic Church in India. Alencherry is among the Indian cardinals eligible to elect the Pope.

The church panel report has been sent to Rome. Ernakulam archdiocese spokesman Father Paul Karedan admitted that the



Grave charges in probe report on land deal

probe report contained grave charges against Alencherry and said the report would have reached the Pope by now. “We have sent the report to Rome via the Apostolic Nuncio (Vatican representative) in Delhi,” Karedan said. Two others were also blamed for the land deal.

Alencherry is head of the Kochi-based Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, one of the 22

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● PAGE ONE ANCHOR

40 YEARS ON, SCIENTIST RETURNS HOME SEEKING JUSTICE, PROMPTS RELOOK AT SEX ABUSE LAWS

SHALINI NAIR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

AN ACCOUNT of alleged abuse narrated by an Indian-origin Canadian conservation scientist to Woman and Child Development (WCD) Minister Maneka Gandhi on Monday has prompted an official move to plug a glaring gap in child sexual abuse laws in India.

The WCD ministry is now looking at initiating changes to the legal framework to allow adult survivors to register complaints against the perpetrators at any stage in their lives. Instructions have already been issued to examine the Protection

of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Indian Evidence Act, a senior official told *The Indian Express*.

The ministry set the ball rolling after 53-year-old Purnima Govindarajulu met Gandhi to say that she wanted to pursue a case against her relative who sexually abused her and others as a child.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Purnima says she approached the ministry after her attempts to pursue the case with the police came to nought.

“I was six years old, growing up in Chennai, when I was first sexually abused by a cousin’s husband. My family was finan-



Purnima met Union Minister Maneka Gandhi . Renuka Puri

cially weak and my mother was very sick. They were wealthy, their daughter was only a few years younger and so I was often

sent to stay at their house. It got worse when I was 10-13 years old, especially at night, when he would use his mouth or finger. I

Pehlu Khan’s lynching: Police charge all victims with cow smuggling

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, JANUARY 31

A SECOND chargesheet following the death of Haryana dairy farmer Pehlu Khan, names two of his companions as accused and concludes that all three had indulged in ‘cow smuggling’ under state laws.

The chargesheet was filed by Alwar police in the court of the Behror additional chief judicial magistrate on January 24. Following Khan’s lynching on April 1, police had registered two cases — one against Khan’s assailants for murder and another against Khan and his companions for ‘indulging in cow smuggling’.



A video grab of the attack

The police had charged nine men with the murder of Khan after identifying them from video footage of the lynching. The case is being tried in the court, but another investigation in September last year had cleared six others who Khan named in the FIR as his assailants.

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GOVT SCHOOLS IN 700 DISTRICTS

All districts are tested: math, language skills dip as kids grow

Girls show better learning than boys; rural schools perform better in math

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

LEARNING LEVELS in mathematics and language show a progressive decline from lower to higher grades in the government school system, even as the country inches closer to achieving the target of universal enrolment for six-14 year olds, according to the Centre’s first nationwide assessment of educational outcomes.

According to results of the National Achievement Survey (NAS), released by the HRD Ministry last month, an average of 67.7 per cent of Class 3 students have performed well in language. This rate, however, drops to 58.4 per cent in Class 5 and 56.7 per cent in Class 8.

The drop in overall learning levels in mathematics is even sharper. In Class 3, it stands at 64.3 per cent and falls significantly, almost by 10 percentage points, to 54.14 per cent in Class 5. It is the lowest in Class 8 at 42 per cent.

For now, the HRD ministry has only released district-wise report cards from the survey, which covers 2.2 million students from 1.1 lakh schools across 700 districts. However, according to official sources, a preliminary analysis of the results shows that female students demonstrated better learning than males.



2.2 million children across country were tested

For instance, in mathematics, 64.4 per cent of female students in Class 3 performed well, compared to 64.1 per cent male students. In Class 5, the success rate of girls in the same subject was 54.32 per cent and boys 53.94 per cent. As for Class 8, 42.3 per cent of girls answered questions correctly, compared to 41.8 per cent boys.

Another interesting revelation was that students of government and government-aided schools in rural areas performed better than their counterparts in urban schools in mathematics, across all three grades. The finding is contrary to the perception that the quality of education in urban areas is superior to that in rural areas.

Among social groups, OBC students in most classes performed better than their counterparts.

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WORLD

IN FIRST STATE OF UNION ADDRESS, TRUMP PUSHES IMMIGRATION REFORMS



YEMEN REBELS CAPTURE ADEN



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RAU'S IAS INTERVIEWS 2017-18

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IAF officer taken into custody for ‘espionage’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

A GROUP Captain, posted at the IAF's head-quarters here, has been taken into custody by the force for alleged involvement in espionage and possible attempt to access sensitive documents, official sources said on Wednesday.

The investigators are probing whether the officer was a victim of honey trap as it is suspected he was sending pictures of classified documents to a woman through

WhatsApp. It is also being probed whether he was part of a larger espionage ring being run from Pakistan, the sources said.

The officer was indulging in certain “unwanted activities” through unauthorised electronic devices which is against existing orders, they said.

Apparently, he got in touch with the woman through social media. Her identity has not yet been established.

A team of the IAF's central security and investigation took the officer into custody, and currently he is being interrogated, said

the sources.

The “unwanted” activities by the officer were discovered during routine counter intelligence surveillance, the sources said, adding he attempted to possess sensitive documents.

The IAF officially did not comment on the matter. The identity of the officer has been kept secret as investigation into the case was going on, the sources said.

The investigators are also examining whether the officer has passed on any sensitive information to anyone.

40 years on, scientist returns home seeking justice

detailed testimony and an audio recording of a purported phone conversation between her brother and the perpetrator where the latter allegedly made a confession.

“Canadian police told me that I could use the report to pursue a police case in India since the incident happened in India. I approached Chennai police with the complaint. Though they were very helpful and took down my complaint, they were at a loss as to which laws they could apply in this case,” she said.

Purnima talks of how some of her family members don't support her. “They see me as a troublemaker but they don't see the crime. The criminal is just one and the survivors many, and they suffer all their lives,” said Purnima.

Sources in WCD Minister Maneka Gandhi's office said that all over the world, there have been legal cases based on adult survivors reporting being sexually abused as children.

“The accounts given by adult survivors, of Catholic priests sexually abusing them when they were little, is a point in case. Even in Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein's case, which started the MeToo movement, some of the victims got the courage to speak up only 20 years later even though they were adults at the time of the incident. Our ministry will pursue this issue seriously,” said a senior official.

According to the official, many Commonwealth countries have removed the statute of limitations in reporting childhood sexual offences — they no longer impose a maximum time limit after the crime within which legal proceedings have to be initiated. “There is no reason why India should not allow adult survivors to act against their perpe-

trators. In such cases, they are always repeat offenders as it is about the power they wield over their victims,” said the official.

POCSO is unclear on whether a survivor of child sexual abuse can report the crime after the age of 18 years. Moreover, POCSO cannot be applied retrospectively on cases prior to its enactment in 2012 and such cases fall under the IPC provisions. When it comes to punishment for rape (IPC 376), there is no statute of limitations.

However, it was only after the Criminal Amendment Act of 2013, that the definition of rape was expanded to include forced digital penetration and oral sex (both common in child sexual abuse). Until then, these crimes fell under molestation law (IPC 354) which has a maximum punishment of two years and therefore, unlike penile penetration, has a statute of limitations where by it has to be reported within three years of the offence being committed.

The WCD ministry has also instructed the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to look into the issue.

NCPCR chairperson Stuti Kacker, who met Purnima Tuesday, told *The Indian Express* that existing laws do not offer any recourse to adult survivors. “Since survivors carry the scars of child sexual abuse all through their lives, we are exploring ways of helping them. Even before this case, several people have met us in this regard including male survivors of child sexual abuse,” said Kacker.

According to legal experts, IPC section 377 (intercourse against the order of nature), which carries punishment up to life with no statute of limitations, can be technically ap-

plied in such cases. But the section, which also criminalises gay sex, has never been applied by police in cases of accounts given by adult survivors.

Senior advocate Vrinda Grover, who was part of the government panel that submitted its report in the run-up to the drafting of POCSO, says that while the issue of adult survivors reporting child abuse did cross the panel's mind, there was no public conversation around the issue.

“The law has to make allowance for the fact that the nature of the trauma in child sexual abuse is such that people are likely to speak about it many years later. Words like stigma and shame are insufficient to explain the complex set of emotions that a child goes through when the offender is known to them. The law should also understand that it will take one person to open the door for the other skeletons to come tumbling out of the cupboard as they are always repeat offenders. Our law is, instead, suspicious of survivors who speak up much later because it always looks for evidence in the form of visible physical harm” said Grover.

This month, USA Gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar was sentenced to 175 years in jail for molesting over hundred underage girls since the early nineties, based on the testimonies of many of the adult survivors, including Olympic gymnasts.

In 2011, the UK saw the high-profile case of adult survivors speaking out against popular BBC broadcaster Jimmy Savile, a year after his death at the age of 85, following which investigations showed abuse spanning 50 years and involving victims as young as eight.

Cardinal

Eastern Catholic Churches in the world under Rome and is also the archbishop of the Ernakulam archdiocese.

Last month, the archdiocese had appointed a six-member panel, comprising priests and laymen, to probe losses suffered by the archdiocese in dubious land deals since April, 2015.

Alencherry's secretary and church spokesman Father Jimmy Poochakkattu said the Cardinal would not react now. “He will bring out a circular in which he is expected to explain everything. It will be read out in churches under the archdiocese,” he said.

The losses were incurred after the sale of five plots owned by the diocese in various parts of Ernakulam district. The diocese should have received at least Rs 27 crore from the sales, which they needed to repay bank loans, but received only Rs 9 crore after the dubious real estate deals.

The report stated, “There is grave violation of the Church laws, which amounted to naked act of breach of trust and criminal misappropriation of properties.”

The probe committee also found unaccounted money, which it termed a “grave issue”. “Total amount receivable according to 36 deeds is Rs 13.52 crore. But, there is a difference of Rs 13.62 crore between the documented amount and the amount in the curia (a diocese body) resolution. Receiving unaccounted money is a serious offence as per the Income Tax Act.”

The church panel report stated: “The Major Archbishop (Alencherry) was directly involved in alienating all the five plots, which were sold after being divided into 36 pieces. The first deed was registered even before it was discussed in the Consulters' Forum. Decision of the finance council quoted in all the 36 sale deeds is incorrect. The receivable value set by the diocese was Rs 27.15 crore, whereas the value according to the registered deeds was only Rs 13.51,44,260.”

The report also noted that the diocese only received Rs 9.13 crore from the “agent”. “It is painful to note that at the time of execution of the sale deeds, Alencherry has not assured the receipt of money to the archdiocese.”

According to the report there were “nu-

merous instances” of violation of Church law and civil laws along with the lack of transparency and collegiality. “As the head of the Syro-Malabar Church, Alencherry should have taken utmost care in respecting the provisions of Church laws,” the report said.

Two others from the Church — priest Sebastian Vadakumpadan and the finance officer Joshy Puthuva — were also blamed for the dubious land deal. The report also named Saju Varghese Kunnel as the kingpin in the deal and alleged that he enjoyed the confidence of the Cardinal and father Puthuva.

Without naming the Cardinal, the committee recommended, “People who are responsible for the crisis should be tried according to the law of the Church and necessary action should be taken for the violation of the civil law.”

The report stated that the registration of land deeds took place in violation of all norms even without receiving the entire amount from the sale. The committee found that the value of the land was Rs 4.47 lakh per cent but the archdiocese fixed this at Rs 9.5 lakh per cent. One cent is equal to 435.5 square feet.

The report has blamed Alencherry for involving Kunnel in the transaction, but the former claimed he who introduced Kunnel to the finance officer Puthuva, who in turn said he acted under Alencherry's instructions.

The committee also evaluated that the diocese has lost Rs 46 crore in various land purchase and sale deals since April, 2015. Though the price fixed for five plots was Rs 9.5 lakh per cent, the then prevailing market rate was Rs 15 lakh per cent.

Secretary of priests' council Father Kuriakose Mundadan said the council had discussed the committee report on land dealings. “Alencherry informed the priests that the council would have an elaborative debate on the report later. The meeting of the pastoral council, a body of priests and laymen, would be held after the detailed discussion on the report in the priests' council,” he said.

Karedan ruled out chances of Alencherry's resignation. “He has told the priests that he would give explanation for all the allegations after studying the report. He has reservations about some of the findings in the report. He has sought some more time to explain his stand,” he said.

Amu resigns from primary membership of Haryana BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GURGAON, JANUARY 31

A DAY after he was released from the Bhondsi jail on bail, Haryana BJP leader Surajpal Amu on Wednesday resigned from the primary membership of the party's state unit.

The police had detained him on January 25 to question him about his involvement in the anti-Padmaavat violence in Gurgaon, and on the following day a court sent him to judicial custody for four days.

“I was saddened over the action of the central government and the Supreme Court on allowing the controversial movie ‘Padmaavat’ to be screened in every state. This has resulted in violence and the hurting of sentiments of over 12 crore people of the Rajput community,” he claimed. “I was also shocked on how Haryana



Saddened over the action of the central government and SC: Surajpal Amu

as well as the Centre fabricated the entire protest by naming it terrorist and anti-social. I have resigned from all posts of the Haryana BJP and informed BJP state president Subash Barala through SMS, e-mail, and Facebook,” Amu said.

“I have come to Rajasthan to visit the holy kingdom of Queen Padmini where I have decided to resign from BJP,” he said.

The police also suspected his role in the attack on a Gurgaon school bus, which had children on board.

The Sanjay Leela Bansali-directed period drama faced a lot of trouble from various Rajput groups and political leaders.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Skills dip

classmates belonging to general and SC/ST categories (see box).

The results also show that Karnataka and Rajasthan performed the best in mathematics and language. Arunachal Pradesh was among states with the least impressive performance on learning outcomes.

The NCERT is currently preparing state-wise report cards, which will be released later this month. According to ministry sources, the government will draft and share short-term, medium-term and long-term interventions, based on the results of NAS, with state governments.

The findings of the survey are significant as it covers the student population that has benefited from provisions of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, which came into effect from March 2010.

Incidentally, the latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), carried out by NGO Pratham, found that while 86 per cent

of youth in the 14-18 age group were still in the formal education system and 73 per cent had used a mobile phone within the previous week, more than half of them (57%) struggled to do simple Class 2-level division. ASER, however, is a rural household survey. The NAS, conducted by NCERT on November 13 last year for classes 3, 5 and 8, is the government's first and the country's largest sample survey of learning outcomes, spanning rural and urban areas.

The NAS survey assessed children in mathematics, language, environmental sciences (EVS), sciences and social sciences. In Class 3, there were 10 questions in EVS, two in language and 12 in mathematics. In Class 5, there were 13 questions in EVS, two in language and 15 in mathematics. In Class 8, there were one question in language, 20 in mathematics, 12 in science and 22 in social science.

Learning outcomes are assessment standards, which help teachers understand the learning levels of students in their respective classes individually as well as collectively. A learning outcome survey gauges students' understanding of a sub-

ject, concepts and their application but not test their memory.

Last year, the central government amended the rules under the RTE Act making it compulsory for all state governments to codify expected levels of learning, which students in classes 1-8 should achieve in different subjects.

The NAS survey of November was a part of the effort to gauge students' learning based on indicators drafted by the NCERT. For instance, in mathematics, Class 3 students were assessed on a bunch of learning objectives, including whether they read and write numbers upto 999 using place value, add and subtract three digit numbers, identify and make 2D shapes by paper folding and read time correctly to the hour using a clock or a watch, among other things.

The language test for Class 3 students gauged whether they can read small text with comprehension, identify main ideas, details and draw conclusions. They were also asked to read printed scripts on classroom walls, such as poems, posters and charts.

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY: KEY FINDINGS

LANGUAGE *

Class	Overall Performance	Girls	Boys	Rural	Urban	SC	ST	OBC	General
Class 3	67.70%	68.40%	67.10%	67.90%	67.10%	66.90%	66.40%	68.20%	69.00%
Class 5	58.43%	59.14%	57.68%	58.33%	58.86%	57.20%	55.40%	59.80%	59.60%
Class 8	56.70%	57.16%	56.19%	56.52%	57.44%	55.30%	52.60%	58.40%	58.30%

* in govt and government-aided schools across 700 districts

MATHEMATICS *

Class	Overall Performance	Girls	Boys	Rural	Urban	SC	ST	OBC	General
Class 3	64.30%	64.40%	64.10%	64.40%	64.00%	63.50%	61.80%	65.40%	65.14%
Class 5	54.14%	54.32%	53.94%	54.53%	52.46%	52.90%	51.00%	56.00%	64.30%
Class 8	42.07%	42.31%	41.82%	42.72%	39.33%	40.40%	39.80%	43.90%	42.10%

* in govt and government-aided schools across 700 districts

BSF man

Yadav to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, along with his plea seeking reinstatement which came up for hearing on Tuesday.

According to the records, BSF Director General K K Sharma sought an NIA probe on January 18 last year, a few days after Yadav posted the video clips.

“But as such no proof is available in communication/ post/ chat that have been seen/ tracked on Facebook as well as Twitter account, which could be harming national interest,” says the probe report. “His phone/ electronic devices data also didn't revealed any information about his foreign contacts, documents, audio or any incriminating images,” it says.

The NIA report says that while Yadav's call detail records before January 9, 2017 — a day after he posted the video clips — “didn't reflect any foreign contacts”, he was, however, “in connection with foreign contacts on and after 10.01 2017, where calling numbers were from countries like UK, Saudi, UAE, Australia and Korea”.

In his plea, Yadav has said the intention behind his complaint “was merely for the

cause of jawans serving the nation and to improve the quality and quantity of the food for BSF soldiers” and there was “nothing mala fide”.

On allegations that such videos could “help an enemy country trace their location”, Yadav has said that the NIA “clearly commented that the video could neither have helped trace the location, nor would it have posed a threat to national security.”

Punjab and Haryana High Court Judge P B Bajanthari on Tuesday issued notices to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, BSF Director General and Commandants of 80 and 29 Battalion headquarters in Jammu & Kashmir for their response to Yadav's petition.

Yadav has alleged that he was illegally detained by the BSF just half-an-hour after his voluntary retirement on January 31 last year, and was dismissed without being issued a showcause notice. He has termed his dismissal as “illegal, unjust, biased, arbitrary, violative of Article 21 of the Constitution of India and against the principle of natural justice”.

“It was quite surprising how such an unfortunate incident happened that the petitioner was despotically detained just after half-an-hour of his retirement... and

put into a barrack alone... the door of the barrack was bolted from outside and a guard was enforced outside... Furthermore, at about 1305 hours, Sub-Inspector Raghubir Singh, line officer, came to the petitioner in his barrack where he was illegally detained and forced him to receive the order copy whereby VRS of the petitioner was cancelled on 31.1.2017,” says his petition.

He has said that he shot the video to show it as proof to his senior officers, but he does not know when his “colleagues uploaded the video on my Facebook account on 08.01.2017”.

Yadav, a resident of Rattan Kalan village in Narnaul tehsil of Mahendergarh district in Haryana, joined the BSF in 1996. He was dismissed from service on April 19 last year. The BSF said he was found guilty of committing an act “prejudicial to good order and discipline of the force”, in which he made false allegations and did not adhere to formal grievance redressal mechanism of the force.

He was also found guilty of neglect to obey general orders as he carried two mobile phones while on operational duty and posted photographs in uniform on social media in contravention of instructions.

Section 5 of the Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 1995 and Rules, 1995 pertains to prohibition of export of bovine animals for the purpose of slaughter and regulation of temporary migration or export for other purposes.

According to Section 6 the transporter is also an abettor and is liable for the same punishment as the person committing the offence while Section 9 mentions punishment for causing hurt to a bovine animal.

The police have alleged in the chargesheet that the accused didn't have requisite permission to take the bovines out of Rajasthan.

“We didn't get any documents... That's why they have been found guilty of smuggling cows,” Head Constable Harun Khan from the Behror police station, who is the investigating officer told *The Indian Express*.

According to the Act, a competent authority, who is defined as the collector of a district or any other officer authorised by the state government can issue permits for migration of bovines outside Rajasthan.

“Is this justice? We were attacked and beaten up by the mob, and now we have been made the accused. I have the valid purchase receipt issued by the Jaipur Municipal Corporation. At the time of the purchase, nobody told us we needed additional permits,” said Azmat, who has been bedridden for several months after the attack, which he says resulted in serious injuries. “I sustained injuries in the spinal chord

Judges roster

The CJI has not responded to the suggestions. Though he is open to the committee, the question of inclusion of future Chief Justices remains a thorny issue. Sources said a clearer picture would emerge in a week's time.

All available judges, other than Justice Chelameswar, meanwhile attended the customary lunch which the SC judges take turns to host every Wednesday. The host judge serves his or her home cuisine at the lunch.

This Wednesday, it was the Justice A K Goel's turn to play host. The Chief Justice has been asserting his rights as ‘master of the roster’, but in a series of instances, the four Judges had pointed out in their letter written to him

two and a half months ago, which they made public, the rostering of cases was such as to not inspire confidence in the system being fair, transparent or just.

The matter of hearing a petition on the controversial Medical Council of India (MCI) cases had brought issues to the fore when Justice Chelameswar had constituted a bench. It was overruled by the Chief Justice in an unprecedented move by him within hours and kept with a bench of which he was himself a member.

The five judges are incidentally, also members of the collegium which decides on fresh appointments, transfers and postings. No meeting of the collegium has so far been held after the press conference.

Classifieds

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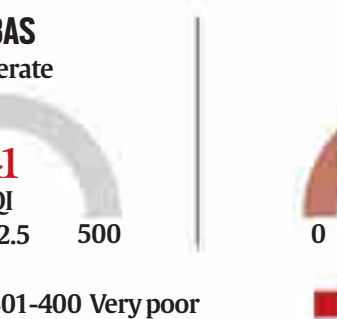
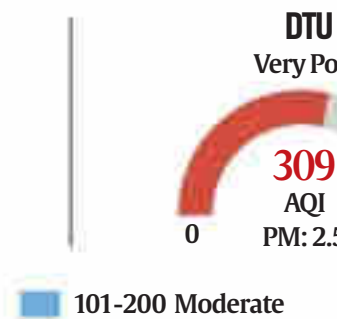
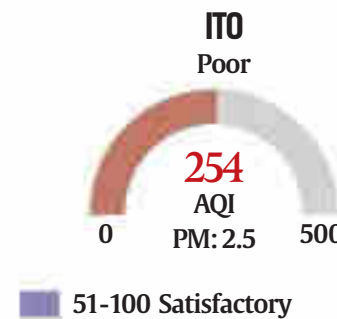
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0-50 Good



51-100 Satisfactory

101-200 Moderate

201-300 Poor

301-400 Very poor

401-500 Severe

SC asks Amrapali to submit plan on completing projects

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday directed real estate firm Amrapali, facing lawsuit by home buyers, to come up with a comprehensive proposal explaining how it will complete its pending projects.

“Comprehensive proposal with respect to all projects, including details about stages of work, funds needed and timeline for completion, should be filed by the company in seven days,” a bench of Justice Arun Mishra and Justice Amitava Roy said.

The court said it was “concerned” about home buyers who have “put their entire savings of life” to buy their dream home, and said that these funds should not be diverted to something else.

It also directed authorities in Noida and Greater Noida, the Committee of Creditors, the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) and other parties to file their responses to the proposal, to be submitted by the company, in 10 days thereafter.

Appearing for the petitioners, advocate M L Lahoty said the



In Sector 120, Noida. Archive

case involved 42,000 flats owners in various Amrapali projects seeking refund of their money. Therefore, as directed by the top court in the Jaypee case, flat owners should be permitted to register their names in a portal, he said. Currently, the portal allowed registration of home buyers of only one project, Silicon City, of the company.

The bench said this was a “serious issue” and a “complicated case”, wherein it has to go into details of money paid by home buyers and the loans and mortgage made to secure that loan.

Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, appearing for Amrapali, said a developer had come forward to de-

velop the flats in a timely manner. Work on pending flats will be completed in seven phases from 2018 to 2021 since, under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, it has time till 2022 to complete the project, he said. “The money of home buyers will be diverted to an escrow account and will only be used for the projects,” Kumar said.

Senior advocate C U Singh, appearing for home buyers of Silicon City project, objected to the demand of additional money by IRP from the flat buyers and said it should be quashed.

The bench said it will consider all aspects once the proposal is submitted.

‘Concerned’ over rape of infant, SC asks two AIIMS docs to visit her

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

VOICING CONCERN over the condition of an eight-month-old baby who was allegedly raped by her cousin in Shakurpur Basti on January 28, the Supreme Court Wednesday directed that two doctors from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) be sent to the hospital where the infant was recuperating to assess her condition.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, Justice A M Khanwilkar and Justice D Y Chandrachud said “we are more concerned about the health of the infant”, and directed that the two doctors decide whether the child needs to be shifted to AIIMS for better care.

“We direct that two competent doctors from AIIMS shall go along with special ambulance to the hospital and, thereafter, take a decision whether the child can be shifted to AIIMS. For the said purpose, we leave it to the two doctors, who are the experts in the field, but the doctors must appreciate the concern ex-

DCW TO WORK 24x7 FOR A MONTH

■ Following the rape of an eight-month-old baby, DCW chief Swati Maliwal has launched a ‘Satyagraha’. She also said the commission will function 24x7 for the next 30 days. “I will not go home for the next 30 days,” she said.

pressed by this court... In case they decide that the child should be shifted, they shall shift the child immediately to AIIMS under their personal supervision,” the bench said.

It added that the secretary or any other person in-charge of the Delhi State Legal Services Authority must accompany the doctors and that “they should submit a report before this court by tomorrow (Thursday)”.

The court said it was hopeful “that the parents of the child shall fully cooperate” with them in the matter.

SUPPLEMENTARY CHARGESHEET FILED IN COURT

On Chhota Shakeel’s hit list, 2 filmmakers

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

A FORMER Vishwa Hindu Parishad activist, a film director and a producer were on gangster Chhota Shakeel’s hit list till last year, a supplementary chargesheet filed by the Delhi Police Special Cell in a Delhi court has revealed.

The chargesheet has been filed in connection with the arrest of three people for allegedly trying to kill Pakistan-born Canadian writer Tarek Fatah, who frequently visits India.

“It has now come to light that apart from Fatah, the three other names had also been given to the contract killers by Chhota Shakeel, who wired money to them from Dubai to New Delhi via Western Union money transfer service,” a senior police officer said.

On June 9 last year, the Special Cell had arrested an al-



Chhota Shakeel ‘also gave contract for ex-VHP leader’s murder’

leged sharpshooter Junaid Chaudhary (21), who was working for Chhota Shakeel. Subsequently, two other accused, Shahbaz and Naseem, were also arrested.

Chaudhary had allegedly received Rs 1.5 lakh through hawala operators, as well as the wire transfer from Dubai.

According to police, on March 23 last year, Chhota Shakeel sent Rs 45,000 to a branch in Bhajanpura, and Chaudhary withdrew the money after submitting a copy of his Aadhaar card.

“On March 16, Shahbaz also received Rs 40,000 after submitting his voter ID card,” the police

chargesheet states.

“Naseem told police that Chhota Shakeel asked Chaudhary to kill Fatah, a former VHP activist Robin Sharma, and Vishal Mishra and Vinod Ramani, the director and producer of Bollywood movie *Coffee with D*, portrays gangster Dawood Ibrahim in an unflattering manner. Police later recorded statements of Mishra and Ramani, in which they claimed that had received threatening calls from Chhota Shakeel during the film’s promotion,” the police chargesheet stated.

Police sources said that Chhota Shakeel has been trying to eliminate Robin Sharma since 2003, and is also responsible for killing his brother.

According to police, Robin’s brother Deepak was shot dead at Dwarka in 2005.

The following year, a henchman of Chhota Shakeel was shot dead in a joint encounter by the Delhi police and the Hardwar police.

Officiating Ramjas College principal skips interview for top post

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE OFFICIATING principal of Delhi University’s Ramjas College, PC Tulsian, seen as a frontrunner for the post of principal, did not appear in an interview for the position on Wednesday.

Teachers said he may have opted out following protests, demanding his removal over allegations of misusing students’ fund and paying his “personal employees” with the money.

On January 24, the staff association had held an emergency meeting and launched a protest demanding Tulsian’s removal. It had also taken up the matter with the university. Tulsian had denied the allegations and said it was an attempt to malign his image. He did not respond to queries on why he did not take the interview.

“Dr Tulsian had the highest API score among all candidates, so there was no reason for him not to appear. Looks like following our protest, he was under pressure and decided to stay away from the process,” said a teacher of the college.

Tulsian had an API score of about 1700. A candidate applying for the principal’s post should have an API score of more than 400.

The chairman of the governing body of the college, who is also the member of the interview screening committee, had held a meeting with stakeholders of the college on the allegations against Tulsian. The other candidates in the fray for the post include Manoj Khanna, former officiating principal of Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences; Ashok Kumar, professor, department of physics of the college; and Abha Mittal from the commerce department of Maharaja Agrasen College.

Cabinet nod to proposal on hospital managers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

The Delhi Cabinet Wednesday approved the health department’s proposal for appointment of 92 managers at its hospitals to exclusively look after administrative work. Once implemented, doctors will not be given additional responsibility of administrative work.

According to a statement issued by the Delhi government, the hospital managers (superintendents) will be appointed at the 24 Delhi government hospitals that provide secondary, tertiary and specialised healthcare on fixed, consolidated remuneration for one year on contract basis.

At the moment, medical directors, superintendents, doctors, nurses, paramedics and pharmacists are engaged in ancillary operations of hospital management, besides being engaged in clinical service.

“These health facilities need to be run efficiently to cater to clinical service delivery as well as ancillary operations of hospital management for providing quality healthcare services to the residents of Delhi,”

the statement said. The statement also maintained that multifarious services ranging from housekeeping, sanitation, kitchen services and specialised medical requirements and equipment handling, among others, are required to be efficiently managed in hospitals. “Involvement of doctors in administrative work not only leads to reduction in their clinical (service) output but also puts an additional load of hospital management on them,” it said.

Currently, states such as Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar have, under the National Health Mission, created posts of hospital managers to employ professional manpower with managerial competence, the Delhi government said in the statement.

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Poised for a blooming performance...

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Nine Month ended		Year ended
		31.12.2017 (Un audited)	30.09.2017 (Un audited)	31.12.2016 (Un audited)	31.12.2017 (Un audited)	31.12.2016 (Un audited)	
1	Total Income from operations	288917	214232	252665	691017	581737	768795
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) from operations before exceptional items and tax	8746	10347	11495	23059	20282	32488
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) before tax	8746	10347	11495	23059	20282	32488
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax	5250	6672	7324	14509	11915	20816
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/ (loss) and Other Comprehensive Income for the period)	4582	6634	7039	13766	11314	20733
6	Equity Share Capital	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058
7	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves						133606
8	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) *						
	(a) Basic	1.07	1.36	1.49	2.96	2.43	4.24
	(b) Diluted	1.07	1.36	1.49	2.96	2.43	4.24

Place : Noida
Dated : January 31, 2018

Dead men still running factories, one inspector for entire industrial area

Renting, buying factories in Bawana prohibited, but that doesn't stop businesses from skirting the rules



ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

ARIHANT JAIN, owner of a utensil-making unit in Bawana's sector 7, has been diligent in paying house tax, electricity and water bills, and the factory's maintenance cost. There's just one catch: Jain has been dead for five years. Ever since his death, the factory has changed hands at least three times, with none of the occupants in possession of ownership documents. "I have affidavits and some other documents, but none recognised by law. Jain did not have any family, and I wanted to buy the factory before his death. But that's prohibited by the DSIIDC," the current owner, who did not wish to be named, said. Eventually, he took charge in 2016 by paying around Rs 45 lakh.

At Bawana industrial area — in news for the death of 17 people in a factory blaze on January 20 — this is not an isolated case. The Bawana Chamber of Industries (BCI) and the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) estimate that "about 70%" of the factories are now run by people who are not the original owners, making the task of fixing ac-

countability in case of a mishap even harder. In fact, the ill-fated unit that caught fire had also been taken on rent by two men, who started packaging firecrackers without a licence.

"After the fire, we tried to ascertain the number of original owners, but realised that around 70% of the factories don't have one. Most so-called owners are in their late 30s. Allotment of units took place in the late 90s, and we certainly did not allot plots to 10-year-olds," said a DSIIDC official.

However, BCI and DSIIDC do not have concrete data, while the MCD has just started the process of collating the number of factory licences issued to owners.

Several 'owners' *The Indian Express* spoke to said they procured factories from the original owners either on rent or through "power of attorney" by paying a lump sum (*see box*) — both things prohibited by authorities. "Many owners are too old to run factories. Some die and their next of kin do not want to continue. And some leave the country with their family," says BCI chairman Prakash Chand Jain.

In the absence of proper documents, Amit, who rents out a factory, says he cannot procure a bank loan. "I have to keep the factory running in his (the original owner's) name. It's the same for many other factory owners — most have to borrow money to keep things going," he says.

Bending rules

In 1996, after the Supreme Court ordered relocation of industries from Delhi's residential areas to Bawana industrial area, the DSIIDC had received allotment demands from 51,214 industries. As per BCI data, around 27,000 applications were approved. Currently, around 16,000 units are functioning on paper, though on the ground the figure is closer to 12,000.



Officials estimate that 70% of factories are not run by original owners. Amit Mehra

MOST OWNERS LONG GONE

25,000 entrepreneurs currently running businesses in Bawana

12,000 factories running at the moment, many housing more than one business

75-80% factories not run by original owners, as per BCI, DSIIDC officials

1 factory inspector from MCD tasked with checking licences

APPROXIMATE MONTHLY RENT FOR FACTORIES IN BAWANA

100 sq m	Rs 30,000
150 sq m	Rs 40,000-45,000
250 sq m	Rs 50,000-65,000

₹50,000 security deposit has to be paid before taking factory on rent

APPROXIMATE COST OF 'PROCURING' FACTORY FROM ORIGINAL OWNER

100 sq m	Rs 55 lakh
150 sq m	Rs 90 lakh
250 sq m	Rs 2 crore

Sale or transfer of factories by the owner to a third party is prohibited by the DSIIDC. "The aim was to decongest Delhi. If factory owners found working in Bawana difficult and had the option of selling their factories, they would have done so and moved back to Delhi to set up fresh plots. The purpose of relocation would have failed," a DSIIDC official said. But while selling of factories

is illegal, there are enough brokers who help owners skirt the rules. A factory in Bawana's sector 3, for example, has changed hands six times and currently produces auto parts. "We got this unit six months ago, and painted and repaired the premises. We paid Rs 50,000 as security deposit apart from the monthly rent. Every single factory in this lane has changed hands," said

Manoj, the supervisor. Often, a third party informally buys the factory from the original allottee, divides it into smaller parts, and rents out the units inside to several small businesses.

"But we cannot apply for a licence from MCD as they do not recognise us as the original owners... I would rather rent out the factory to earn more," said Pradeep, who owns a wire-mak-

ing factory and has rented the first floor to an electrical goods unit.

Renting out of the factory violates Section 416 and 417 of the DMC Act 1957, which states that "no person shall, without the previous permission in writing of the commissioner, establish in any premises or materially alter, enlarge or extend, any factory..."

Licensing challenge

Since most factory owners don't have proper documents, the process of renewing the licence every year is often ignored.

After the recent blaze, questions were raised on how the unit ran without a licence. According to MCD officials, the building owner had applied for a fresh licence in 2015, but was turned down as she could not provide an NoC from the fire department or get clearance from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

In January this year, the accused in the case, Manoj Jain, took the building on rent from her and started packaging firecrackers — again, without a licence.

According to the MCD, "violators will attract a fine of Rs 5,000 for running a factory without Commissioner's permission, while violation of carrying on a trade without a licence will attract a penalty of Rs 1,000 with additional charge of Rs 100 per day for continuation of offence".

Monitoring, however, is easier said than done. According to an official from the North MCD licensing unit, there is only one factory inspector in charge of Bawana industrial area. Even the BCI claims that raids by factory inspectors are conducted only three-four times in a year.

Rajan, the original owner of a utensil factory, says he is "fed up and desperate to move out". Except, doing so means handing over the property back to DSIIDC at 1996 rates, and pay an additional 10% cost for clearing debris and 50% of the principal amount of Rs 4,200 per sq m of the original allotment rate. "I will not hand back the factory to DSIIDC. I don't think anyone has ever done that in Bawana," Rajan says.

CHILD NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS

Conviction of school director, principal upheld by court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

UPHOLDING THE conviction of a principal and director of a private school in Dwarka, a Delhi sessions court maintained on Wednesday that the school had caused distress to a child and her parents, after they raised "queries with regard to the rationale of charging of fees prior to the date of the offence".

Additional Sessions Judge Vikas Dhull held director Kavita Chandra and Romi Chawla, principal of OPG World School, guilty under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, and ordered that a compensation of Rs 2.5 lakh each be paid by them.

He, however, set aside the two-month jail term that was previously ordered by a magistrate. They are, however, required to appear before the probation officer each month for the next six months.

The incident dates back to 2012, when the father of the girl, N Raghuram, alleged that his daughter, seven years old at the time, complained that she was not allowed to enter the classroom or eat lunch with her classmates on April 24, 2012.

Raghuram said the school authorities were getting back at him as he had asked for a break-up of the fee structure. He had already paid the fee.

School authorities, however, said that the girl was given a transfer certificate after the parents asked for it but she turned up at the school despite that.

"The act of not allowing the child to sit in the classroom amounts to wilful neglect which caused unnecessary mental suffering to her, and the trauma that a child undergoes is immense — once the child goes to school and is not allowed to sit in the classroom," the magistrate had said earlier while convicting the principal and the director.

40 children rescued from factories in Badli

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

FORTY CHILDREN and 19 adults were rescued by the District Task Force from three factories in Badli industrial area Wednesday. The children, mostly from remote villages in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, are said to be in the 13-18 age group and had been employed in pressure cooker manufacturing units, slipper factories, wire-making factories and a speaker-making factory.

SDM (Alipur) Ira Singhal, who was part of the raid, said they have registered an FIR. Police said they are yet to take action against the owners of the factory units. The children, officials said, were made to work in less than 100 sq m factories with one common toilet, lack of clean

drinking water and food. "Twenty-seven of those rescued are girls... They were all paid a paltry sum to work in hazardous units," Singhal said.

"I was paid Rs 4,500, but I didn't know that's less than what I should get. I managed to buy myself lunch and send some money to my father," said a 14-year-old girl who hails from Nepal and stays in outer Delhi.

The raid was conducted by the local SDM, police from three different police stations in outer district, two labour department officials and NGO workers from two organisations. Naved, a rescue worker from NGO Prayas, said the children had been working at the factories at the behest of their parents. "Many of them come from very poor families, with their own parents also factory workers," he said.

WILL THE ELECTION BUDGET VOTE FOR GROWTH?

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MOVE COMES AGAINST BACKDROP OF SEALING DRIVE

As trader fury rises, Puri proposes amending Master Plan: Lower conversion charges, business in basement on table

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

UNION URBAN Development Minister Hardeep Puri gave a breather to Delhi traders on Wednesday by saying that the Delhi Master Plan will be amended to take care of their concerns.

Puri was speaking at a press conference against the backdrop of the Supreme Court-ordered sealing drive in the city, which has seen several shops in major Delhi markets, including Defence Colony, Hauz Khas and Karol Bagh, being sealed over the past few weeks.

Puri said that while the Master Plan will be amended by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the processing time will be reduced.

To make changes in the Master Plan, a 45-day notice for public hearing and objections has to be given after the amendments have been finalised. Puri said that the Centre had decided to reduce this to three days considering the urgency of the matter.

Puri also said the ministry had proposed that uniform Floor Area Ratio (FAR) in commercial-cum-residential plots and commercial complexes be applied. In the existing FAR, buildings up to three stories can be constructed. A higher FAR will mean the addition of another floor.

The DDA board will meet on February 2 to discuss the proposals. Puri also said the Ministry had proposed allowing commercial activities in basements in all commercial areas after the charges had been paid.

Penalty for not paying conversion charges, which are currently 10 times the annual conversion charges, could also be reduced to lower the burden on traders.

Traders in the city have been bearing the brunt of sealing for



Union minister Hardeep Puri addresses the media Wednesday. *PTI*

the past several weeks, after sealing started in the city following a Supreme Court order.

For the past two weeks, a pitched political battle over the issue has been raging between the AAP government and the BJP, with both blaming the other.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met Delhi Lieutenant Governor on Wednesday, asking him to take all possible action to ensure the sealing stops. The L-G assured him that all routes were being explored.

The L-G is also the chairperson of DDA.

On Tuesday, Puri had met the L-G, commissioners of the three municipal corporations and the NDMC chairperson, among others, to find a solution to the issue. Land in Delhi falls under the jurisdiction of the Centre and the L-G.

Market associations across the city, meanwhile, called for a bandh on February 2, 3 and 4.

Reacting to Puri's announcement, AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj tweeted, "Today Central Govt UD Minister announced few measures to stop sealing in Delhi. This is exactly what AAP has been screening for last 2 months. Solution was with Central govt, the intention was missing. BJP kept misleading the people by diverting the blame on Delhi govt."



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after his meeting with L-G Anil Bajjal on Wednesday. *Amit Mehra*

Monitoring panel doesn't mean other agencies won't work: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE SUPREME COURT Wednesday said the mandate given to its monitoring committee — to oversee the implementation of laws on sealing of illegal premises in the capital — does not mean that other authorities would not do their work.

A bench comprising Justice Madan B Lokur and Justice Deepak Gupta observed this while hearing the pleas by traders of a marble market in south Delhi where the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) had carried out a sealing drive as per the direction of the

monitoring committee.

The counsel representing the traders told the bench that the monitoring committee was mandated by the top court to look at the misuse of residential land for commercial purpose only and sealing was carried out in the area which was agricultural land. The bench said, "But that does not mean that the corporation (SDMC) will not do its work. They have to do their statutory work. This has to be done by the corporation."

The committee filed its status report in the court and said the area in question cannot be used for commercial purpose.

The bench posted the matter for hearing on February 5. The

apex court had earlier said the authorities do not appear to have carried out their statutory duties in preventing illegal construction in Delhi. It had observed that rule of law over sanction to construct buildings has "completely broken down" in Delhi and had expressed concern over rampant illegal construction.

The monitoring committee, comprising KJ Rao, former advisor to the Election Commissioner; Bhure Lal, chairman of EPCA; and Major General (Retd) Som Jhingan, was set up in March 24, 2006 by the apex court.

The court had asked the panel not to seal any premises from 2012, expecting authorities to carry out their statutory duties.

Traders to go on three-day strike from February 2

New Delhi: Traders have called for a 'Delhi Bandh' on February 2, 3, and 4, in protest against the ongoing sealing drives.

The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) Wednesday announced that the sealing is causing fear and panic among traders and market associations. CTI convenors Brijesh Goel and Hemant Gupta said a 'mahapan-chayat' of traders was organised at the Constitution Club Wednesday, where the problem of sealing was discussed.

Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazar, Chawri Bazar, Khari Baoli, Bhagirath Place, Naya Bazar, Connaught Place and Lajpat Rai Market are some of the areas to be affected by the strike. **ENS**

11 yrs on, civic bodies seek more time on survey of 351 roads

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

AT A meeting on the ongoing sealing drive, commissioners of civic bodies said they need more time to authenticate the 2007 survey of 351 roads, which are yet to be notified under the 'commercial and mixed-use' category.

These 351 roads have not faced the sealing drive yet, and the Delhi government hopes that once the roads are notified under the commercial and mixed-use category, traders here won't have to face the brunt of sealing.

The three commissioners were part of a meeting of the special committee of the Delhi Assembly, looking into the drive that has become a flashpoint between AAP and BJP. Renu Sharma, principal secretary, Department of Urban Development, also attended the meeting.

The nine-member committee asked the commissioners about the UD Department's claim, that the reports submitted by them were incomplete, which is why the Delhi government could not approach the Supreme Court for a nod on the proposed notification. Sharma said, "We are asking if the three commissioners are satisfied with the (2007) survey... if yes, we need them to authenticate it, so we can approach the Supreme Court."

Among reasons cited by the commissioners for the apparent delay were "old records taking time to be found" and the trifurcation of the unified MCD in



A Supreme Court panel is monitoring the sealing drive

2012. EDMC commissioner Ranbir Singh said, "I can only authenticate on the basis of old records, which can't be found. We are searching for them and when they do land up on my desk, I will read them and authenticate. The survey was done in 2007, old records take time."

The committee then asked "if the survey records had suddenly disappeared", and if there is a deadline in place at all.

North MCD commissioner Madhup Vyas said, "Of the 351 roads, 155 fall under North MCD now. We have unearthed survey records of two roads and are hoping to find the rest by today evening." SDMC commissioner Puneet Kumar Goel also cited the same reason.

The committee, led by AAP MLA Bhavna Gaur, will reconvene Monday. The committee also asked about conversion charges collected by the three civic bodies, and where the money is being spent, to which Goel said, "We have built footpaths and toilets. Parking, a big problem across markets, is a huge investment."

BRIEFLY

'Tipu Sultan's portrait won't be removed'

New Delhi: Days after a BJP MLA said the portrait of Tipu Sultan would not be allowed in the Assembly, Speaker Ram Niwas Goel Wednesday said there is no question of removing it and added that it was the BJP's habit of creating controversy on every issue. Goel said he would initiate "strict action" if someone removed the portrait of Tipu Sultan from the Martyrs Memorial Gallery of the Assembly. **PTI**

2 arrested for forgery

New Delhi: A husband and wife have been arrested from south Delhi's Kotla Mubarakpur for allegedly forging documents and duping banks and people. Police said the accused, Monu Kumar Gupta (45) and his wife Neelam (43), were on the run for more than five years. **ENS**

Man booked for cheating

New Delhi: A Gurgaon-based businessman was Wednesday booked for allegedly duping a retired colonel of Rs 80 lakh after promising to make him the director of his company. Police said the complainant, Col Arwinder Singh (ret'd), has worked in senior positions with IPL teams. **ENS**

Man beaten to death

New Delhi: A 35-year-old man was beaten to death in Dwarka Wednesday. Police said the victim, Subhash Mishra, left home Tuesday night but did not return. His body was found 2 km from his residence. **ENS**

Draft rules urge people to use multi-level parking lots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE DRAFT parking rules for Delhi, which were opened for feedback Monday, stress on the need to decongest Delhi roads by giving incentives for parking in multi-level parking lots.

Close to 1,400 cars are added to Delhi roads each day, while there are only close to 250 surface parking lots in the city and only a handful of multi-level lots. According to the draft rules of the Delhi Maintenance and Management of Parking Rules, 2017, surface parking for more than an hour will not be allowed within 500 metres of a multi-level parking lot and the area will be designated as a 'no-parking' zone.

The rules, however, mention a clause for extraordinary situations. "In case some essential on-street parking has to be provided



The move is an attempt to decongest capital's roads

within the 500-metre zone, it will be priced exponentially, at least three times the on-street parking rates," the rules state.

Officials said that in some areas, multi-level parking lots are not filled to capacity but people park their vehicles outside illegally. "The idea is to make sure that more people use these parking lots, so that congestion can be reduced. Prohibitive parking rates in such cases will be helpful," said a senior official.

The rules also touch upon provisions for long-duration parking. "Long-duration parking should be located only in off-street facilities. In case, the off-site facility is more than 200 meters away, adequate shuttle service by non-motorised/clean fuel-based vehicles shall be provided, with charges subsumed within the parking fees," the rules state.

What the parking rates will be and how much it will cost to park in areas meant for long-duration parking lots is yet to be decided and will be done by a Base Parking Fee Committee that will include representatives from the municipal corporations, NDMC, Delhi government's Urban Development Department and the Traffic Police, among others.

The draft rules are up for comment for a month, following which they will be notified by the government.

Three held for robbing man in cab

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THREE PERSONS have been arrested for allegedly robbing an accountant, travelling inside a cab, on knife-point in Sarita Vihar.

Police said the victim was taken to an ATM in Malviya Nagar where the accused made him swipe his card. However, a wrong PIN was entered and the accused could not withdraw money, following which he was assaulted and dumped near Saket.

Police identified the accused as Rehan (23), Rajan Singh (21) and Ravi Shankar Sharma (18). Police said Rs 3,300 in cash, a knife and the Wagon-R, in which the accountant was travelling, have been seized.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast) Chinmoy Biswal said "Around 8.15 pm, the accountant, Kaushal Kumar Sharma, boarded the cab which had three other people. After the vehicle moved ahead a bit, the accused whipped out a knife and assaulted him."

LET THOSE WHO ANCHOR THE ECONOMY NAVIGATE YOU THROUGH BUDGET 2018.

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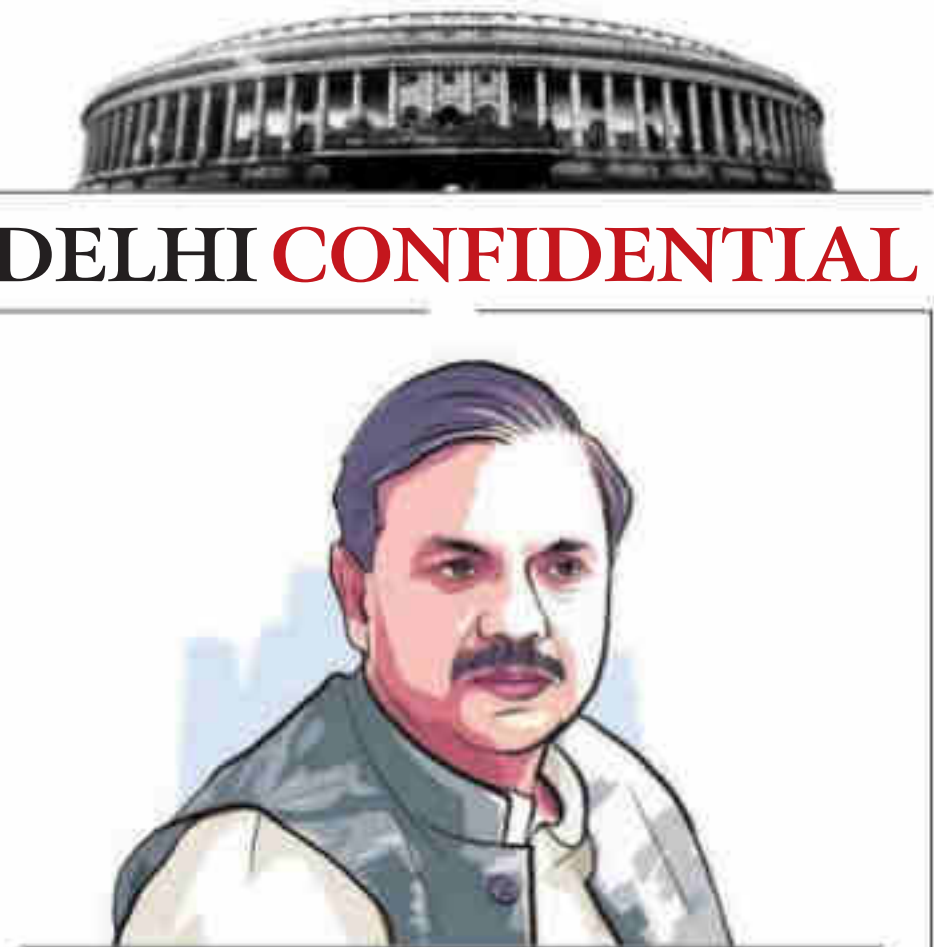
Contributing columnists : •Kumaramangalam Birla •R C Bhargava •Pawan Goenka •Koushik Chatterjee •R Shankar Raman •Ashok Gulati •Jahangir Aziz •Vinayak Chatterjee and many others.

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6 GOVT & POLITICS



ORGANIC AND INDIAN

CULTURE MINISTER Mahesh Sharma wants his life to be a model for those who want to follow a lifestyle based on Indian traditions. Sharma, who had to shift from Noida to the centre of the national capital after becoming a minister, has made a cow shed on the premises of his official residence. His 10 Akbar Road official address has more than a dozen cows. The minister proudly says he does not serve coffee or tea with milk from outside. Also, organic farming methods are used at his shed. On Wednesday, at a lunch he hosted, guests were served organic butter and buttermilk.

BENCH QUESTION

ARGUING THE Rohingya matter before a three-judge bench headed by the Chief Justice of India on Wednesday, Additional Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said he did not know that the five-judge Constitution bench, which was hearing the Aadhaar matter, had not sat on Wednesday only to hear the Rohingya case. On days when the Constitution bench sits, the three judges rise at 11.30 am and the five-judge bench takes its place. The CJI replied there were more matters, not just the Rohingya case for the judges to hear. As the hearing proceeded, attendants who remove the judges' chairs whenever they rise, came to the podium around 11.30 am in anticipation that they would rise. The CJI sent them back, saying the bench would not rise. Mehta remarked: "So I was not the only person who did not know the Constitution bench was not sitting today."

NAMASTE SHALOM

THE FLOURISHING India-Israel ties and new engagements have given birth to a monthly magazine — *Namaste Shalom*. The magazine, of which the first issue has come out, is edited by former *Panchajanya* editor and BJP leader Tarun Vijay. It is rich in photographs of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent India visit and interviews with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on ties with Israel and economist and author Sanjeev Sanyal, who talks about the India-Israel civilizational thread. Parliamentarians Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Poonam Mahajan also contributed. Apart from offices in India, the publication says it has offices in Petah Tiqva in Israel and Fairfax, Virginia (US).

AADHAAR LEG UP

EVEN AS a Constitution bench of the Supreme Court is hearing on the validity of Aadhaar, PSUs seem to have decided to give a leg up to MPs in completing the KYC formalities using Aadhaar. Government controlled telecom operator MTNL has started a window in the Parliament complex to facilitate members to link their mobile numbers to Aadhaar for KYC during the Budget session. The Aadhaar-mobile linkage deadline has been extended to March 31.

'SUIT BOOT' ON OTHER FOOT

BJP goes after Rahul's 'expensive' jacket

SAMUDRA GUPTA KASHYAP
SHILLONG, JANUARY 31

THE BJP on Wednesday paid Rahul Gandhi back in his own coinage by highlighting on Twitter that he had worn an "expensive" jacket at a concert in Meghalaya, where the Congress president launched the party's election campaign on Tuesday.

Rahul had repeatedly said in campaigns that Narendra Modi's government was a "suit-boot ki sarkar" — implying that the central government likes the rich — after Modi supposedly turned up attired expensively at an event attended by then US President Barack Obama. On Tuesday, Rahul was seen in a black jacket with a plaid collar at the Meghalaya concert titled Celebration of Peace, organised by the party.

A tweet on the @BJP4Meghalaya handle the same day said: "So @OfficeOfRG, soot (pun intended!) -boot ki sarkar with 'black' money fleeced from Meghalayan State exchequer by rampant corruption? Instead of singing away our woes, you could have given a report card of your inefficient govt in Meghalaya! Your indifference mocks us."

Below the tweet were two photographs — one of a model wearing a jacket with Burberry written at the top of the picture, the other of Rahul in Shillong, wearing a similar jacket. Burberry is a British fashion label.

As of 11.39 pm on Wednesday, @BJP4Meghalaya had kept the tweet pinned on its page, mean-



Rahul Gandhi at the concert with Meghalaya CM Mukul Sangma in Shillong on Tuesday. *Dasarath Deka*

ing tweets made later would not appear ahead of this post on the page.

The picture of the jacket gave a price — \$995 (Rs 63,254). The price got inflated by the time BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav started tweeting about it. "Cong left NE poor n underdeveloped while their leaders roam around in 70K jackets," he wrote.

During an interaction with the media on Wednesday, when Rahul was asked about the BJP's post, he said: "I am not aware (of it)." About the jacket, he said: "Somebody gave that to me."

Rahul targeted Modi again. He said he had never seen Modi hugging and talking to a poor man. "I have never seen him with poor people... He had also criticised the Congress's fundamentally pro-poor policies like MGNREGA and a farmer loan waiver," he said.

The Congress recently released a slideshow of Modi hugging world leaders. The accompanying captions had mocked him,

After Kabul attacks, Ghani & Modi discuss terror sanctuaries

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

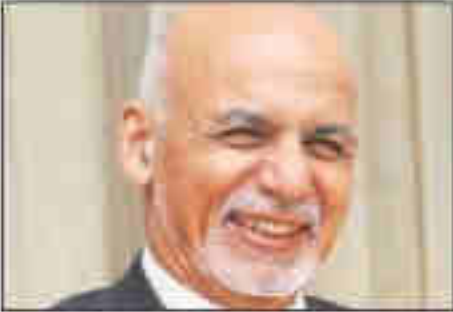
IN THE wake of a series of terror attacks in Afghanistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani spoke over telephone on Wednesday and "discussed the need for an end to terrorist sanctuaries" in the "neighbourhood" — a clear reference to Pakistan.

The conversation took place even as news reports claimed that Ghani had refused to take a phone call from Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Tuesday — the reports were denied by an Afghan diplomat.

South Block sources told *The Indian Express* that the 20-minute conversation between Modi and Ghani reflected the "shared concern" of New Delhi and Kabul, and a "meeting of minds" in assessing Islamabad's role in Afghanistan.

"There was complete consensus after the Uri attacks in 2016, when the Afghan President took the lead in pulling out of the SAARC summit in Islamabad that year. The rest had followed, isolating Pakistan in the region. The latest conversation between the top two leaders is a manifestation of that convergence of views," sources told *The Indian Express*.

Sources said Wednesday's



Ashraf Ghani

conversation between the two leaders was not a "one-off" but a "regular feature".

While there was no official word from New Delhi, Ghani posted on his Twitter account: "PM Modi called me to offer condolences on the recent senseless killings of civilians across (sic) #AFG by the enemies of humanity. We discussed the need for an end to terrorist sanctuaries in our neighbourhood. India has always been a good friend of Afghans, sharing our pain and grief."

Leading Afghan news outlet Tolo News reported that Abbasi reached out to Ghani on Tuesday night "in connection with the spate of recent attacks in Afghanistan" but received no response.

However, Afghanistan's ambassador to Pakistan Omar Zakihilwal denied that such a phone call had taken place.

"Not true — no phone call has taken place. Following recent horrific terrorist attacks in Kabul,

PM Abassi conveyed a message to President Ghani to which it was responded to by high-powered personal delegation by the President to meet the PM today," he tweeted.

Ghani had sent a delegation to Islamabad "to hand over evidence related to recent attacks in Kabul" to be shared with the Pakistan Army. The high-level delegation comprised the interior minister and the intelligence chief, Pakistan newspaper *Dawn* reported.

Kabul has been hit by a series of terror attacks over the last 10 days, which has claimed around 150 lives and injured hundreds more.

On Monday, Islamic State militants attacked Afghan soldiers guarding a military academy in Kabul killing at least 11 troops and wounding 16.

On January 20, in an assault reminiscent of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, Taliban armed with Kalashnikovs and suicide vests attacked the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul and killed around 25 people, going from room to room searching for foreigners during a more than 12-hour ordeal.

The hotel attack was followed by a Taliban-claimed ambulance bombing on January 27 in the Afghan capital that claimed over 100 lives, mostly civilians.

The Afghan government has blamed the attack on the dreaded Haqqani Network.

After the ambulance bombing, India strongly condemned the "barbaric and dastardly terrorist attacks" in Kabul, saying that it "stands ready to extend all possible assistance, including for treatment of those injured".

Afghanistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Mahmood Saikal has accused Pakistan's spy agency, the ISI, of training a terrorist involved in the attack in Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel.

In the recent past, India-Afghanistan relations have been strengthened by the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in October 2011.

Subsequently, when Modi visited Afghanistan on December 25, 2016, India gifted four Mi-25 attack helicopters to the Afghan Air Force. On June 4, 2016, Modi visited Herat in western Afghanistan to jointly inaugurate the Afghan-India Friendship Dam, earlier known as Salma Dam, along with Ghani.

Ghani paid a working visit to India on September 14-15, 2016, and in October 2017. India had announced last year that it would take up 116 community development projects in 31 Afghan provinces.

DECISION 2018

KARNATAKA

person and fielding him on a party ticket is commonplace. The leaders will work to iron out differences," Lad said.

Singh was picked up by the Congress following fears that he could return to the Janata Dal (Secular), with which he was earlier associated, because of his dissatisfaction with the BJP, Congress sources said.

Singh is one of the wealthiest politicians in Karnataka. He declared a total wealth of Rs 104.53 crore ahead of the Karnataka Assembly polls in 2013 and declared Rs 95.90 crore when he became a BJP MLA in 2008. He enjoys immense popularity in Hospet on account of his philanthropic activities — setting up schools and hospitals for the poor.

Singh was considered an integral part of a mining mafia run in Bellary district by former BJP minister G Janardhan Reddy and his associates during 2008-2011. He is currently out on bail in the cases.

Former BJP MLA from Kudligi B Nagendra, who is accused of illegal mining and exports, is also expected to join the Congress.

RAJASTHAN

BYPOLL RESULTS TODAY

The results for bypolls in two Rajasthan Lok Sabha seats and an Assembly seat will be out on Thursday. The elections were held in Alwar and Ajmer Lok Sabha seats and Mandalgarh Assembly seat.

India reaches out to Nepal, Sushma meets 'pro-China' Oli today

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, JANUARY 31

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister Sushma Swaraj will be in Nepal for less than 24 hours on Thursday at a time K P Oli, the man the Indian establishment believes to be pro-China, has emerged as the likely Prime Minister. Swaraj, accompanied by newly appointed Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, will be on a "political mission", Nepali authorities believe, at the initiative of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Over the phone, Modi had told Oli on January 21 that he was eager to welcome him as Prime Minister at the earliest, adding that he would send Swaraj soon to make preparations.

The invitation was extended directly to Oli through the Indian embassy.

Swaraj is likely to meet Oli, besides President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and other leaders during her 20-hour stay.

Modi had planned a short trip to Nepal slightly before the election process began here, ostensibly to lay the foundation of the Arun Three Hydro project that India is going to build.

However, with the electoral outcome having gone in favour of the Left Alliance led by Oli, Sw-



Sushma Swaraj

Swaraj is likely to meet Oli, besides President Bidhya Devi Bhandari, and other leaders during her 20-hour stay

araj's visit is being seen as an attempt to repair damage in bilateral relations, especially after Oli criticised India at home and at international fora for the "blockade" for five months in 2015.

The last government led by Maoist chief Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who is part of the ruling alliance in Nepal, has formally joined China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Oli, however, also wrote to Modi on the occasion of the Republic Day, saying that he looked forward to learn a lot from India's experience about implementing the Constitution.

Can't contest in Tripura properly for lack of funds and a traitor, says Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 31

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS chief Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday blamed lack of funds and a "traitor who has joined the BJP" for the party's inability to give a tough fight in the Tripura Assembly polls.

The West Bengal Chief Minister was speaking at the extended core committee meeting of Trinamool in Kolkata.

"The first reason why we are unable to contest the Tripura polls properly is because of lack of funds. Some time back, we were able to establish our organisational network in Tripura. But because of a traitor who joined the BJP, we suffered a setback," she said. She did not name anyone but political circles believe she meant Mukul Roy, who was in charge of the party in Tripura, under whose leadership a large section of the Congress in Tripura joined Trinamool.

After Roy left Trinamool, a section of the party joined the BJP in Tripura, thus making the Assembly polls a straight fight between the BJP and the Left.

Mamata said: "By now, people have realised that at least Didi will not adopt any policy that will hurt the interests of common people."

KARNATAKA

BJP MLA accused of illegal mining joins Cong

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, JANUARY 31

ANAND SINGH (52), a BJP MLA from the iron ore-rich Bellary region who is accused in several cases of illegal mining by the CBI and the Karnataka Lokayukta SIT, was inducted into the Congress on Wednesday on the basis of his popularity in Hospet (Vijayanagar) Assembly constituency from where he has been elected twice in a row.

Singh, a transport and mining businessman who joined the BJP in 2008 at the behest of the party's former Bellary strongman G Janardhan Reddy, was inducted into the Congress in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and state party president G Parameshwara.

Singh's induction despite opposition from factions within the Congress is seen as part of the party's efforts to use his financial and popular clout to maximise the party's chances of winning nine seats in the Bellary region.

"I will work towards winning all the nine seats in the district," Singh said, blaming recent internal bickering and his sidelining within the BJP as the reason for his exit. Siddaramaiah said Singh was joining the Congress as a believer in its secular principles.

There was speculation about Singh moving away from the saffron party in November last year when he participated in Tipu Jayanti celebrations in Hospet,



Anand Singh with Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Wednesday. *Twitter*

despite opposition from the BJP.

Efforts to bring Singh into the Congress were initiated by politician and Bellary mining businessman Santhosh Lad who is the labour minister in the Congress government.

Lad has been a key supporter of Siddaramaiah since 2013.

"We do not know what kind of message this will send out to voters since the Congress opposed illegal mining to come to power. There is no doubt, how-

ever, that Singh enjoys massive support in his constituency and is a strong candidate. In the end the Congress should benefit in Bellary, rather than lose ground on account of this move," a senior Congress leader said.

The BJP's Hospet unit joined the Congress along with Singh. Many Congress leaders in the Bellary unit are opposed to the induction, Congress leaders said.

"Differences among party leaders over induction of a new

UNION BUDGET TODAY

Health sub-centres gear up for bigger role in preventive care

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

IN A first, there is now a separate allocation of Rs 1,200 crore for preventive health care services — screening for hypertension, diabetes, and cancers — in health sub-centres, taking them beyond the reproductive health care that they have fulfilled until now.

Together with another Rs 800 crore allocation from states, this initial Rs 2,000 crore is the first real effort of the Centre to move away from a curative-focussed health system. The Health Ministry is expecting a cumulative budget increase of about Rs 5,000 crore this year on the little over Rs 47,000 crore allocated to it last year. "We have been assured of an 11-per cent increase in allocation this year," a source said.

The growing burden of non-

communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cancer is the most stark feature of India's changing disease burden. For long, experts have called for a comprehensive preventive model to tackle this feature.

The National Health Policy unveiled last year also stressed on prevention, and this is seen as the first step in that direction.

In its meeting last month, the empowered programme committee of the National Health Mission (NHM) approved Rs 1,200 crore for NHM for 2018-19, and Rs 1,600 crore for 2019-20 for comprehensive primary health care. This means health sub-centres, the lowest rung of the NHM structure, will, for the first time, move beyond providing antenatal and postnatal care such as vaccinations (but not deliveries).

The development means health sub-centres will have equip-

ment and trained personnel for screening of cancers (cervical, oral and breast), hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, and also provide a few basic medicines essential at that level.

According to the blueprint by the ministry, the new centres — to be called "health and wellness centres" — will provide comprehensive maternal health care services at sites equipped to service as "delivery point", neonatal and infant health care services, childhood and adolescent health care, contraceptive services, reproductive health care, management of communicable diseases, screening and comprehensive management of non-communicable diseases, basic ophthalmic care services, basic ENT care, screening and management of mental health ailments, basic dental health and geriatric health care.

Capital spending pegged at Rs 1.5 lakh crore for railways

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE RAILWAYS may chart a course to spend the highest ever plan size in Budget 2018-19 with sources pegging a figure close to Rs 1.5 lakh crore of capital expenditure.

While the Railways has been scaling up capital expenditure every year for the last three years, what makes the coming one different is that it is mostly based on institutional financing and monetisation of assets, not so much on Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) from the government, sources said.

The Budget may give around Rs 55,000 crore to Railways as budgetary support — same as last year. The rest the national transporter will source through a loan from the LIC and other av-

enues. Sources suggested that around Rs 49,000 crore the Railways plans to draw from the LIC money.

Unlike the last Budget, the Railways will allocate resources on broad categories while detailed projects will be fitted into them later, sources said.

In the same vein, the revenue plan would also go upwards of Rs 1.8 lakh crore with Rs 50,000 crore targeted from the passenger business, a slight increase from this year's revised estimates.

Officials claimed a non-fare revenue target upwards of Rs 10,000 crore was being planned too in gross revenue figures.

Sources said the Railways will embark on largescale electrification through tenders given on engineering, procurement and construction mode. A similar plan is afoot for upgrading the

signalling system.

The Railways is expected to end this fiscal with an operating ratio of 95 per cent and project a 93 per cent operating ratio for 2018-19, sources said. The Budget may also feature the announcement of a financial trajectory for the Railways to bring down the operating ratio to a healthy 75 per cent in five years.

Railways Minister Piyush Goyal is learnt to have fixed a target of around 20 per cent reduction in the transporter's working expenses in 2018-19 to achieve better financial health by the end of the next fiscal.

The expenses — salaries, pension bill and other working expenditure — generally work out to around Rs 1.2 lakh crore from total earnings of around Rs 1.8 lakh crore, resulting in strain on the national transporter's finances.

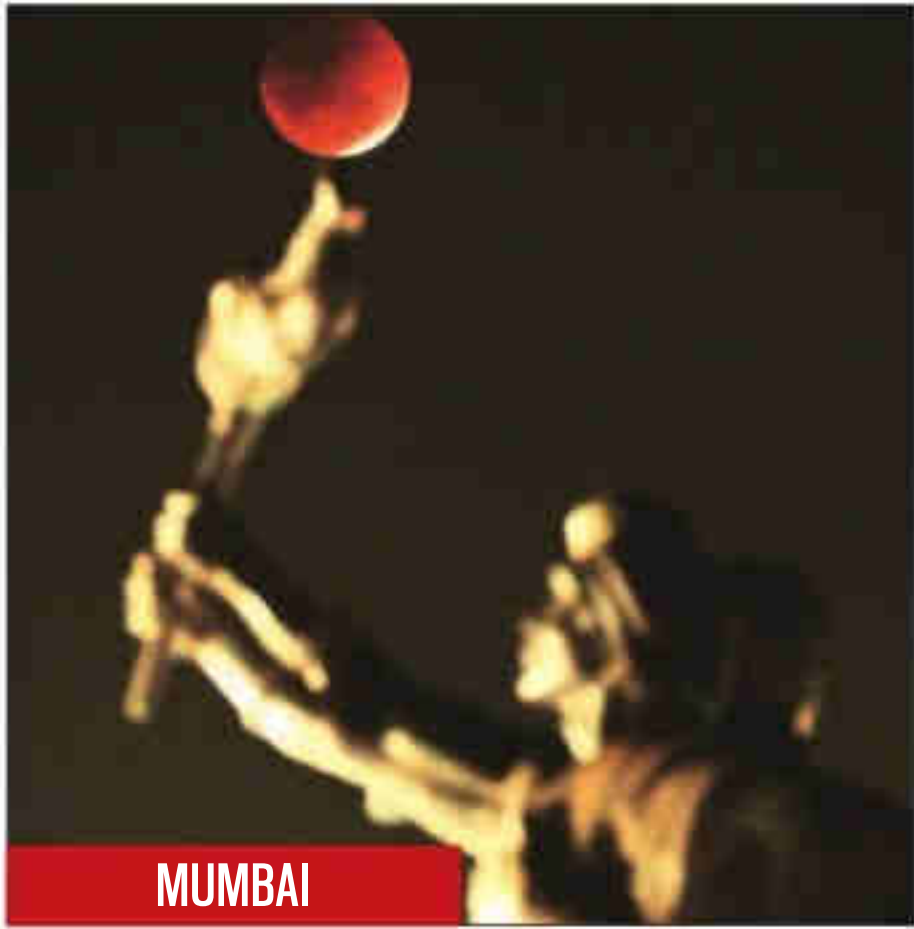
7 EXPRESS NETWORK

JHARKHAND

FIVE KILLED IN ACCIDENT

Five people, including a woman, were killed and seven others critically injured in a head-on collision between a truck and SUV near the Siskaria More in Latehar district, police said.

SUPER, BLUE, BLOOD



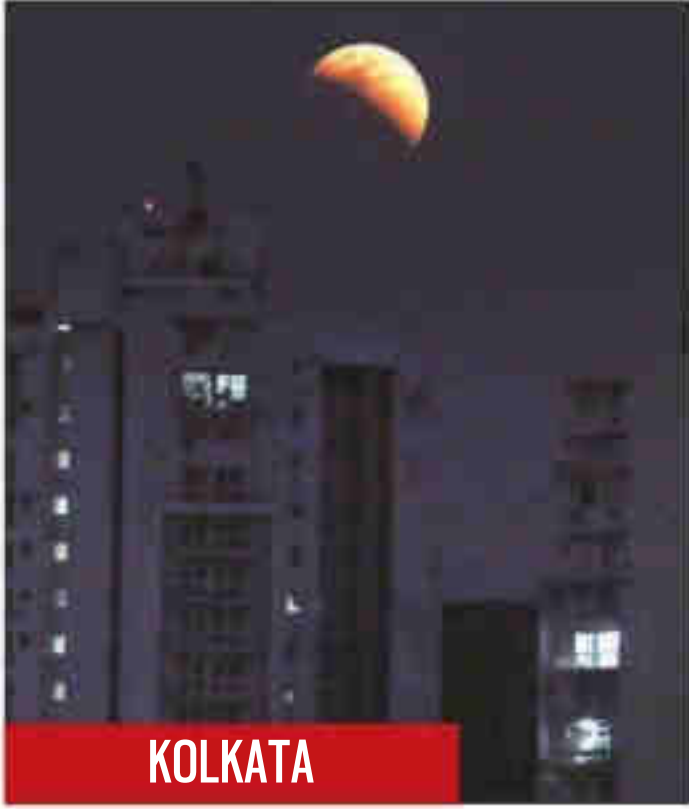
MUMBAI

Janak Rathod



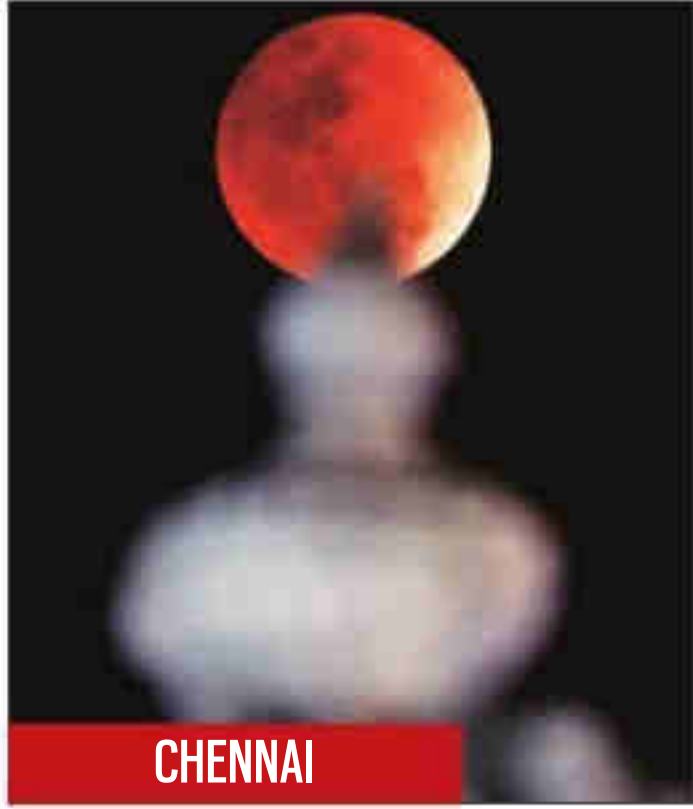
NEW DELHI

Praveen Khanna (multiple exposure)



KOLKATA

Partha Paul



CHENNAI

PTI

Moon-gazers gathered in planetariums in several cities for a guided observation of the year's first total lunar eclipse that was partially visible from India. After decades, moon-gazers saw a super moon, when it looks bigger and brighter, a blue moon, which is the second full moon in a calendar month, and a blood moon, a reference to the red colour of an eclipse. The second such eclipse on July 28 will be entirely visible from India.



NORTH

Four of a family hacked to death in UP

Allahabad: Four members of a family were hacked to death in their house on Wednesday morning in Banda district. Police suspect they were killed by a neighbour, identified as Amit. Mahadev Yadav (40), his wife Chunni Devi (35), their sons Pawan Kumar (10) and Rajkumar (8), were murdered by unidentified as-

sailants, police said. "At around 5.30 am, two persons broke into Mahadev's house and slit his throat with an axe while he was asleep. They killed his wife when she woke up in alarm. They also killed the two children," additional SP Banda Lal Bharat Kumar said, adding that further probe is on. **ENS**



Rescue operation in progress in Patna Wednesday. PTI

EAST

4 feared dead as boat capsizes in Bihar

Patna: Four women were feared dead after a boat, carrying nine members of a family, capsized in the Ganga in rural Patna on Wednesday, police said. Five others — two men and three women — could be rescued. The boat was carrying members of the family based in Gaya district, who

had come here to take a holy dip on the occasion of Magh Purnima, SHO Naseem Ahmed told PTI. The incident took place at around 10 am on Wednesday in Fatuha police station area. Efforts were on to trace the missing persons, SHO Naseem Ahmed said. **PTI**

SOUTH

3 sent to custody for beating mentally-challenged woman

Kochi: Three women were remanded in custody two days after they were arrested for beating and torturing their mentally-challenged neighbour on the street in Vypeen area here, police said. Liji Augustine, A Molly and PDina were arrested by the police Monday after a video of them beating 48-year-old Cinda Antony on a street went viral

on social media. The victim is reportedly mentally unstable. The video showed the women beating Antony with a stick as she lay motionless on the road. One of the women is seen using a hot spatula to torture the victim. A few men can be seen merely looking on without helping the victim. The victim was dragged along the street for a while. **ENS**

WEST

Hindu woman 'elopes' with Muslim, cops launch hunt

Surat: The Navsari local crime branch is looking for a 24-year-old Hindu woman who is suspected to have eloped with a Muslim man she had been studying with in Navsari district, the woman's family members said. Police have sought the help of both communities and deployed teams to find them. The woman, a resident of Navsari, and the man

from Surat studied at Veer Narmad South Gujarat University and are rumoured to have been in a relationship. The parents of the woman had reported her missing at Navsari town police station on January 28. "Their cellphones are switched off. The parents of the man had gone underground... we will find them soon," Inspector AV Rose said. **ENS**

Arms seized from home, Kasganj trader held for Jan 26 murder

MANISH SAHU, ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL & ABHISHEK ANGAD
KASGANJ, JANUARY 31

A .315-BORE bullet, a post-mortem report indicating a shot fired from a height, and a raised arm, purportedly holding out a flag. These lie at the heart of evidence that led to the arrest of Salim, who the police suspect had shot Abhishek Gupta (22) during the communal clashes in Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh, on January 26.

Salim's brothers, Wasim Javed and Rashid, are two other prime accused in the case, according to the FIR, which names 17 people. The two are absconding

Meanwhile, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to probe the Kasganj clashes has included three videos related to the incident in the investigation and sent them for forensic tests.

With another video circulating widely on social media since Tuesday, showing a group of youths carrying firearms and rods and said to be marching towards the place where the clash had occurred, state Additional D-G (Law and Order) Anand Kumar, without commenting on specific videos, said, "Videos related to Kasganj incident will be sent for forensic examination to check their authenticity. These videos could be used as evidence in the court."

Brothers Salim, Rashid and Wasim are prominent businessmen in Kasganj, and Wasim is a member of the district industrial cell. Locals said their 50-year-old shop — Barki Cuts — is the city's first garments shop.



Residence of the accused who was arrested on Wednesday, in Kasganj. Gajendra Yadav

Confirming Salim's arrest, I-G (Aligarh) Sanjeev Gupta said, "He is one of the three accused in the murder case."

Abhishek's father, Sushil Gupta, had filed the case against the three brothers.

Before the arrest, the police also claimed to have recovered weapons from the trio's house: a single-bore gun, a double-bore gun, and a revolver.

District Magistrate RP Singh had earlier said that there are two possibilities. "The shot was fired from above, and the house there belongs to the three accused, so there is a possibility of their involvement. A Muslim man, Nausahad, was also shot on his leg, which makes it appear that someone from the Tiranga rally was also firing," Singh said.

The basis of the arrest is the postmortem report that confirms the shot was fired from an elevated position, and a .315-bore bullet — now sent for forensic test — struck Gupta on his col-

larbone.

A source privy to details of the autopsy conducted by a three-doctor panel told *The Indian Express*, "The bullet struck him (Gupta) on the collar bone — on the left side. It appears his left hand was raised, possibly to raise a flag. This allowed the .315 bore bullet to enter his body at a steep downward angle. The humerus bone (upper arm bone) gave it direction."

The source added that the bullet entered the body, rupturing the lungs and the diaphragm and travelled to the right lower abdomen area, and that the autopsy team conducted X-Ray thrice to confirm the bullet's location.

The postmortem reportedly ended around 6 pm on January 26, after which the body was handed over to the family.

An officer said, "We will run ballistics examinations to check whether the bullet was fired from one of the guns recovered (from the trio's home)."

Videos as 'evidence'

State ADG (Law & Order) Anand Kumar on Wednesday said that the SIT will include the videos as evidence of violence and arson, while Aligarh I-G Sanjeev Gupta countered that the videos are "not legally admissible". He said, "How can we be expected to take these videos as evidence unless eyewitnesses say they shot the video?"

The SIT got these videos from locals. The videos have footage including that of two groups arguing over 'Tiranga yatra' being taken through the locality, and those of violence and arson on January 26 and 27.

Additional SP, Crime (Etah), Om Prakash Singh, who is part of the SIT also said they have three videos related to the incident and are scanning them. "Two videos are of January 26. In one of them, two groups are seen engaged in an argument. In the other video, rioters are seen damaging motorcycles. The third video is of rioters throwing stones and torching a shop on January 27."

Asked about the video circulating online today, Singh said he has not come across any such video. Not willing to speak on specific videos, ADG Kumar said there are videos said to be related to the incident and the police will scan them.

The 14-second video that began circulating on social media since Tuesday purportedly shows people carrying the national flag, brandishing sticks and one person with a gun. It was suggested that the video was shot during the communal violence in Kasganj last Thursday.

RAHUL TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE HOME Ministry has sought another report from the Yogi Adityanath government on the Kasganj communal violence and the action taken to tackle the situation. Further details were sought since the preliminary report received on Wednesday was not found to be comprehensive, officials said. Details on the exact sequence of events, number of those arrested, FIR, among others were missing in the first report, sources claimed.

The government is expecting the Kasganj issue to be raised in Parliament following which Home Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to make a statement on Friday. Home Ministry requires the details to draft Singh's response, officials said.

The Home ministry spokesperson did not respond to



Rajnath Singh may make a statement in Parliament on Friday.

queries. MHA is learnt to have reiterated its directions on sending a comprehensive report about the violence that started last Friday, and the steps taken to restore peace in Kasganj and its adjoining areas. The state government has also been asked to provide details about the steps taken to punish those involved in the violence.

In its preliminary report, the UP government had given circumstances leading to the death of Chandan Gupta. It further said the police are investigating and all facts are being ascertained to know if the violence was pre-planned.

Tiranga Yatra without permission

Noida/Lucknow: Five days after communal violence flared up in Kasganj, right-wing groups attempted to take to the streets, trying to take out a 'Tiranga Yatra' in Agra on Wednesday.

On Wednesday morning, without a green signal from the district administration and police, hundreds of right-wing group supporters and leaders assembled at Shaheed Park in Agra. "Our plan was to take out a peaceful Tiranga Yatra from there and submit our memoran-

dum to the DM at the collectorate. However, the district police and the DM reached Shaheed Park and asked us to not carry out the rally due to law and order reasons. We submitted our memorandum at Shaheed Park itself," said Parmendra Jain, former VHP leader.

The memorandum submitted by VHP leader Sunil Parashar demanded that Rs 50 lakh compensation, a flat, and government job be given to deceased Chandan Gupta's family. **ENS**

Dewas 'king' acquitted of murder after delayed trial

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JANUARY 31

VIKRAM SINGH Puar, king of the erstwhile princely state of Dewas, was acquitted of murder on Wednesday after the trial was delayed following an anonymous complaint to the President about alleged irregularities in the trial.

Puar was among 13 people accused of a man's murder over a land dispute in Raghogarh village of Dewas on March 18, 2015. While the other accused had been acquitted in December 2016, a separate trial was con-

ducted for Puar who was absconding and surrendered in January 2017.

All witnesses in the case, including the victim's relatives, had turned hostile and did not back the prosecution case. At one point in February 2017, the prosecution wanted to close the case, but the trial judge did not agree.

Puar's lawyer Ashok Verma said an anonymous complaint had been sent to the President of India alleging that instead of the victim's wife Reshambai, someone else was examined in her name. The President's office forwarded the complaint to the trial



Vikram Singh Puar

judge who, according to Verma, found the allegation false after ordering a probe.

However, the trial judge then ordered that Reshambai, who was not examined before, be produced in court. Arguing that Reshambai was not a material witness in the case, Verma challenged the order in the Madhya Pradesh High Court which

quashed the trial court's order on January 22.

Third Additional Sessions Judge Jogendra Singh on Wednesday acquitted Puar, whose mother is the BJP MLA from Dewas. His late father Tukojirao Puar was a former BJP minister.

While applying for bail, his lawyer argued that Vikram was the only son and the minister's funeral cannot take place without him. It was also argued that the royal family's reputation will be affected if Vikram attended the funeral accompanied by police. Two days after Vikram was

released on bail for 15 days, the minister died at a hospital.

Vikram's coronation took place in a private ceremony. Instead of surrendering as the bail condition demanded, Vikram fled again with police claiming that they were making a serious attempt to arrest him. Vikram's 12 accomplices were acquitted when he was still at large. Vikram surrendered later.

Government pleader Girish Mungi said there was no point in appealing against Wednesday's verdict because all witnesses had turned hostile. "There are no grounds for appeal," he said.

SC: Decide petitions against Karti circulars in 2 months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday asked the Madras High Court to decide in two months petitions challenging two lookout circulars issued against former finance minister P Chidambaram's son Karti Chidambaram and others in a corruption case.

"The (four) writ petitions...challenging the Look Out Circulars of June 16, 2017 and July 18, 2017, be decided by the Division Bench presided over by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Madras," a bench of

Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud ordered.

The apex court, which had stayed the High Court order of August 10 last year keeping in abeyance the lookout circulars issued on June 16 and July 28 last year, made it clear that its interim order "shall continue till the matter is finally disposed of".

The top court also said it has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the case and asked the High Court to deal with the prayers independently. The bench also said the High Court will deal with the application, if any, of the accused seeking permission to go abroad on merits.

JHARKHAND Man beheads wife, 16-yr-old daughter calls up police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RANCHI, JANUARY 31

A MAN is on the run after he allegedly beheaded his wife and kept her body in the bed box at his rented accommodation in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district. Police said the incident came to light on Tuesday when the daughter of the accused called police to inform that "something bad had happened to her mother", at a time when he had come to lodge a "missing person's complaint" for his wife. The police added that the exact motive behind the alleged murder was yet to be ascertained, though marital discord over an affair could be the reason.

"As Vinod Pathak was getting the complaint lodged about his wife Anu Pathak at Badee Bazar police outpost under Sadar police station area, the police got a call from his daughter saying that something had happened in the house and that her father may be responsible for it. The accused was taken to the house and when the bed box was checked, the body of his wife was found. Realising that he would be arrested, he fled," said a police officer.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Vinod, a head clerk with Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) in Hazaribagh, used to live with his wife Anu and three daughters — Kriti (16), Vani (13) and Vansh (11) — in Jai Prabha Nagar locality. On Monday night, the couple fought over something, following which Kriti left in a huff and went to an acquaintance's house nearby. The other two children later went to sleep, police said.

Police said that on Tuesday, Kriti returned home and asked Vinod about her mother. Vinod told her that she had gone to a relative's house. He then stepped out and reached the police outpost. "But inside the house, the eldest daughter felt something had happened and alerted the police," said the officer.



THIRD SCORPENE CLASS SUBMARINE LAUNCHED

The submarine, Karanj, being launched at Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai on Wednesday. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

■ Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba's wife Reena Lanba launched the submarine, constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited.

■ The submarine will undergo rigorous tests for one year before it is commissioned, Admiral Lanba said.

■ He called for introspection in ship building in view of the delay in the construction and commissioning.

Land that doesn't exist used to fund Hurriyat: NIA probe

RAHUL TRIPATHI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

TO COVER up the financing of the Hurriyat's activities in Jammu and Kashmir, a plot of land that doesn't exist was leased out to a businessman in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for Rs five crore, an National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the funding of terrorism in J&K has found.

The NIA has identified the UAE businessman who signed an agreement with Kashmiri business Zahoar Ahmad Watali, who is in judicial custody, to lease the land for Rs five crore in 2014.

It is learnt that the UAE businessman transferred the money — in more than 20 installments — between 2014 and 2016. Sources said the land for which the deal was made never existed, accord-

ing to balance sheet records of Watali's firm, Trison Farms. A government official alleged that the contract between Watali and Kapoor was full of legal loopholes that proved it was a cover-up to bring foreign remittances to India.

Watali, officials alleged not only acted as a hawala operator but also aided Hurriyat leaders with other logistical support. In 2011, Watali's firm raised over Rs 2.5 crore in unsecured loans in the names of his wife and three sons. The loan was used to repay another secured loan of nearly Rs 3 crore from J&K banks.

"He has not been able to explain the source of this money so far," the official said and added that the NIA has seized a list of the names of Pakistan's Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) officials during raids at Watali's residence which is part of the NIA chargesheet.

After a six-month investigation, the NIA filed a chargesheet against Watali, Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) head Hafeez Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) chief Syed Salahuddin and nine others under sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Indian Penal Code. A Delhi court is likely to take the cognizance of the chargesheet Thursday.

Watali (65) started his own business at a very young age and owned a bandsaw machine business by the time he was 22. He later set up an oil mill and manufacturing units used to construct window and doors, sources said. According to officials, Watali ventured into real estate and developed flats and plots under Trison Farms. He was also a broker in Dubai and ferried cargo flights between Dubai and Russia.

Investigators also claimed to

have unearthed links between Kashmiri students studying in Pakistan — after being granted visas by the Pakistan High Commission in India — and Hurriyat leaders. Sources said several students were given visas on the recommendation of various Hurriyat leaders, it is alleged.

"This is a three way nexus where militants, Pakistani/ISI officials and the Hurriyat patronize Kashmiri students which may help them prepare a section of citizens who are engineers, doctors and technocrats in Kashmir and will always have affection towards Pakistan. The NIA has found several such documents where it has been found that the medical students studying in Pakistan on the recommendations of Hurriyat leaders were either linked to an active militant or a former militant," an official said.

No counter-FIR in Shopian firing, Army's version included: J&K police

MIREHSAN

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 31

SPECIFYING THAT no counter-FIR has been filed by the Army on Saturday's incident of firing in Shopian, in which a third person died on Wednesday, a top police officer on Wednesday said that the Army's version of what happened that day has been recorded and added to the investigation file.

"A day after the killing, the Army had given its version of the incident. Now it has been made part of the case and investigation is going on. It is no way a counter-FIR," Shopian's Senior Superintendent of Police, Shriram Ambarkar Dinkar, told *The Indian Express*.

In Pune, Army's Northern Commander chief Lt Gen Devraj Anbu said that the soldiers responded with firing only after being "provoked to the ultimate".

Meanwhile, one more person injured in the Army firing at Gunowpora in Shopian on Saturday succumbed on Wednesday, taking the toll to three. The deceased, Rayees Ahmad, was admitted to Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar with grave injuries, it was reported.

In its version, the Army claimed that soldiers who came under heavy stone-pelting had fired in self-defence.

Sources said that the Army has stated that it was a planned attack on its convoy, and that before opening fire the soldiers had

given several verbal warnings to the villagers who were throwing stones on their vehicles.

On Sunday, the J&K Police had registered an FIR under Section 302 (murder) against soldiers of the unit, 10 Garhwal Rifles. BJP legislators have criticised the state government for registering a case against the Army and demanded its withdrawal.

Asked about the Shopian FIR after he reviewed a commemorative parade in Pune, organised to celebrate the 198th Group Day of Bombay Engineer Group, a regiment of Corps of Engineers of the Army, Lt Gen Anbu said, "The investigation is yet to commence and I think all facts will come out (then). Notwithstanding what the state government has done, we have done our own inquiry. We are very clear that we have responded when we were provoked to the ultimate. It was in self-defence, and in protection of the property of the government."

Asked about the Army's claims that one soldier named in the FIR was not present at the spot when the incident took place, he said, "That is unfortunate. Probably in such situation, a generic FIR should have been filed to come to a conclusion to what exactly happened. But in this case, I think they have prematurely put a name...of an individual. I am sure when they investigate, the truth will come out."

— **WITH SUSHANT KULKARNI, PUNE**

BJP, PDP keep to opposing positions on Shopian FIR

ARUN SHARMA

JAMMU, JANUARY 31

TWO DAYS after J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti assured the Legislative Assembly that her government will take investigations into the killing of three civilians in Shopian to its logical conclusion, ally BJP Wednesday said it will continue to push for withdrawal of the FIR against the Armymen accused of the shooting.

"Our ministers in the coalition government have been told about the party's stand and have been asked to take up the issue in the government," said BJP state general secretary Dr Narinder Singh. "In the last two days, our MLAs have asked for withdrawal of the FIR... in the Legislative Assembly also," he added.

On Tuesday, Rajiv Sharma, a BJP MLA from Akhnour, during discussion on grants for PHE, flood control and irrigation, asked the state government why wasn't an FIR filed against stone-throwers who attacked the soldiers.

On Monday, R S Pathania, the BJP legislator from Ramnagar constituency, made a similar demand in the Legislative Assembly. He said: "*Yeh baat mujhey samajh nahi aati ki can you hang a man on the very first day...*"

The PDP does not appear to be in a mood to relent. "The question does not arise," said a senior party leader when asked about the BJP's demand for withdrawal of the FIR.

Opposition Congress spokesperson Ravinder Sharma described the conflicting stands of the allies as "match fixing".

Pak resorts to unprovoked shelling

Jammu: Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked mortar shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) at Mankote area of Poonch district's KG Sector in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

Sources said that the shelling from across the border started around 5 pm. They were using

82 mm mortars targeting forward Indian positions and even civilian population, sources said, adding that the Indian troops also started retaliating.

The latest shelling along the LoC in Poonch came after a brief lull of nearly 12 hours as Pakistani troops had resorted to

heavy shelling on many civilian areas in Rajouri district's Nowshera sector and Poonch's Balakote area on Tuesday night. The night-long firing from across the border had stopped around 4 am on Wednesday, sources said, adding that there were no casualties on the Indian side. **ENS**

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



AWARD (PUDA)

R Bhagat, IAS, currently posted as Chief Administrator, Punjab Urban Planning & Development Authority (PUDA) has been awarded by the President of India at a National Level Function held on National Voters' Day-25th January, 2018.



MoU (NTPC)

NTPC has signed a tripartite MoU with Jabalpur Smart City Limited. The MoU was signed by V Prakash, Comm, MC of Jabalpur & MD, JCTSL, GS Nagesh, CEO Smart City Jabalpur and Shri Praveen Saxena, General Manager, NTPC.



MOU (NSIC)

Ravindra Nath, CMD, NSIC sign MoU with Dr. Hafsa Hashim, CEO, SME Corp (Malaysia) in the presence of Giriraj Singh Minister of MSME, GOI & M. Mohammed, Mo International Trade and Industry, Govt of Malaysia.



INAUGURATION (KVIC)

KVIC has taken a significant move to promote fabric along with culture. MoS (IC) Giriraj Singh inaugurated KVIC's first Khadi Haat in Baba Kharak Singh Marg, it was more than enough to catch the eyes of connoisseur buyers.



AWARD (RITES)

Rajeev Mehrotra, CMD (RITES) received the Award for Export Excellence (Silver Shield) for the yr 2014-15 in Engineering Services, large enterprises category from EEPIC India Northern Region, in a function held in Lucknow.



PROJECT AWARDED (BHEL)

CM of Tamil Nadu, EK Palaniswami laid the foundation stone for the 2x660 MW Udangudi Supercritical Thermal Power Project in Chennai. Valued at Rs.7,359 Crore, the project has been awarded to BHEL on EPC basis, by TANGEDCO.



MoU (POWERGRID, NR-1)

POWERGRID, NR-1 signed MoU with IRCON in presence of senior officials of POWERGRID & IRCON at RHQ, for various developmental activities under CSR. These developmental activities will benefit the residents of village Kukrola.



CSR (REC)

REC extends CSR support for Rs 1.31 cr to the REACHA for improving learning outcomes in primary education to 3000 children (studying in govt. schools) through project-based learning.

C E L E B R A T I O N S



SAIL celebrated Republic Day at its Corporate Office. Chairman, PK Singh hoisted the tri-color. On this occasion, Singh extolled the SAIL collective to feel proud that SAIL is one of the oldest and largest steel makers for India.



CWC On the occasion of Republic Day JS Kaushal, MD, CWC hoisted the National Flag in the premises of CWC, New Delhi. Senior Officers of the Corporate Office and many other employees attended the Flag Hoisting Ceremony.



AAI 69th Republic day was celebrated at New Air Traffic Services Complex of Airports Authority of India at IGI Airport, New Delhi with immense zeal, fervor and enthusiasm. Member (Planning) S Raheja, AAI hoisted the National Flag.



PNB celebrated the Republic Day at its Head Office in New Delhi with full gaiety, enthusiasm & pride. S Mehta, MD & CEO hoisted the National Flag. KVB Rao, S Sharan EDs, SK Nagpal, CVO & other senior officials were also present.



BHEL 69th Republic Day was celebrated with fervour & gaiety by BHEL at all its offices across the length and breadth of the country. Atul Sobti, CMD, BHEL unfurled the Indian tricolour at an impressive function at BHEL's township, Noida.



NTPC Badarpur has celebrated nation's 69th Republic Day at its premises. GM (Badarpur) unfurled the National Flag. CISF Jawans & school children participated in the parade & salute the National Flag & sang patriotic songs during the program.



PNB celebrated 153rd Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, the founder of the Bank and also popularly known as Punjab Kesari, at its Head Office in New Delhi. On this occasion, floral tribute was paid by Sunil Mehta, MD & CEO of the Bank.



OBC celebrated the Nation's 69th Republic Day at its Corporate Office, Gurugram. On the occasion Mukesh Kumar Jain, MD & CEO, OBC unfurled the National Flag in the presence of Himanshu Joshi, ED along with Sr. Executives of the Bank.



AAI Celebrating 25 yrs of India - ASEAN relationship, AAI signed an historic agreement with Lao Air Traffic Management, D/o Civil Aviation Lao PDR for providing SkyRev360, a comprehensive e-data gathering, invoicing and collection system.



ACADEMIC COLLABORATION (SCOPE)

SCOPE organized program on The Companies Act, 2013 in academic collaboration with ICSI. The program was addressed by V Prakash, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, MMTC, Dr UD Choubey, DG, SCOPE & Makrand Lele, President, ICSI.

SAIL Eighteen employees of SAIL's RSP have brought laurels to the Company by bagging the prestigious Prime Minister Shram Award for the year 2016. It is worth mentioning here that from all over India 50 employees working in various Departmental undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central & State Government and Private Sector units have won the coveted award for the year 2016. It is a matter of pride that more than one third of them are from SAIL- Rourkela Steel Plant. Besides, two out of the three women employees who have won the award belong to RSP.

Punjabi Academy of Delhi Govt. has announced its Annual Awards. The awards are given to the scholars and artists in six categories, including in the field of culture, literature, language & media, every year. These awards are recommended by different universities, colleges, organizations and scholars and then finalized by the award committee of Punjabi Academy and the process is highly transparent.

ELECTED

ALLAHABAD BANK Usha Ananthasubramanian, MD & CEO of Allahabad Bank elected Chairman of IBA The Managing Committee of IBA at its meeting held on 25.01.2018 elected Usha Ananthasubramanian, MD & CEO of Allahabad Bank as the Chairman, Indian Bank's Association, an association of Indian Banks and Financial Institutions based in Mumbai for the year 2017-18. Ananthasubramanian has created history as she is the First Woman Chairman of IBA.



BSF pushing back refugees at border, Rohingya tell SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's response to a plea which alleged that Rohingya refugees who wanted to enter India after fleeing persecution in Myanmar were being "pushed back" at the border by the BSF in violation of the UN principle of non-refoulement.

The Centre opposed the plea and said the matter was best left to the executive.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud said it will hear what the government has to say on the matter.

Appearing for the applicants, two Rohingya refugees who are in camps in India, advocate Prashant Bhushan said the BSF had adopted a policy called "non-engagement" to prevent the influx of more refugees from Myanmar.

"By this policy, the BSF does not arrest the Rohingya trying to enter India, but they push them back and do not allow them to pass through the border. Indian security forces push back Rohingya refugees using chilli and stun grenades," he said.

This was illegal, Bhushan contended, as this was contrary to the international principle of non-refoulement which states that refugees or asylum seekers

shall not be forced to return to a country in which they are liable to be persecuted.

The court wondered if the rule was applicable to those trying to get into the country and whether such issues were amenable to judicial review. "Applying to people already here is understandable. But can it be applied to people on the border too," asked Justice Chandrachud.

Bhushan replied that it applied to both situations.

Senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, appearing for the National Human Rights Commission, however, said the principle would apply only to those already inside the country.

Additional Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Centre, contested the plea saying that "India will be flooded" with refugees. "We don't want India to become the refugee capital of the world," he said, adding that efforts were on at the diplomatic level to resolve the crisis.

Mehta submitted that it was better if the matter was left to the executive to find a solution. "These are better left to be decided diplomatically at the executive level."

The two applicants earlier filed a petition demanding that Rohingya refugees who had entered India following the crackdown in Rakhine should not be deported.

The court will take up the matter next on March 7.

BSF commandant held with Rs 45 lakh 'bribe money'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

ABSF commandant, posted on the Indo-Bangladesh border, was arrested by the CBI for allegedly accepting bribes from smugglers. The commandant (a position equivalent to superintendent of police) was arrested with Rs 45 lakh in cash, which the CBI said was suspected to be bribe money.

Jibu D Mathew, Commandant of the BSF's 83rd battalion, was nabbed when he deboarded Shalimar Express at

Alappuzha, CBI sources said. They said that the arrest was made following a tip-off about an alleged corruption case.

A CBI team along with an independent witness trailed him in the AC-1 coach of the train from Erankulam junction, they said.

The commandant was intercepted when he got down at Alappuzha, the sources added.

On interrogating Mathew, it was found that he got the money as illegal gratification for favours he extended to smugglers operating on the India-Bangladesh border, according to the FIR.

Girl kidnapped from Bihar rescued in Maharashtra

Mumbai: A 16-year-old girl who was allegedly kidnapped from Bihar was Wednesday rescued by the Thane crime branch. The girl was kidnapped on December 3 and was kept in a house in Diva, sources said.

The accused, identified as Sikandar Das had allegedly kidnapped the girl from her home in a village near Bihar's Madhubani. "The Bihar police had followed the investigation to Thane. As soon as they contacted

us, we deployed a team," said senior inspector Nitin Thakre from crime branch unit I.

According to evidence available with Bihar police, the girl and the accused were hiding in a house in Diva. **ENS**



DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110 017.
Website: www.derc.gov.in,
Telefax: +91-11-26673608, +91-11-41080417

PUBLIC NOTICE ON TARIFF PETITIONS FOR TRUE UP OF FY 2016-17 AND ARR FOR FY 2018-19

- The Commission vide its Public Notice published on 03/01/2018 in leading newspapers has invited suggestions/comments from Stakeholders on Tariff Petitions filed by Delhi DISCOMs (BRPL, BYPL & TPDDL) for True up of expenses for FY 2016-17 and aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) & Tariff for FY 2018-19. The last date for receipt of comments/suggestions on the Tariff Petitions was 31/01/2018.
- Delhi TRANSCO Ltd. (DTL) has filed its Tariff Petition for True up of FY 2016-17 and ARR of FY 2018-19 on 24/01/2018 which has been admitted by the Commission vide its Order dtd. 25/01/2018 and uploaded on the website of DERC.
- The Commission has further decided:
 - To extend the last date for receipt of comments/suggestions from Stakeholders on Tariff Petitions of BRPL, BYPL & TPDDL, and
 - To invite comments/suggestions from Stakeholders on Tariff Petition of DTL.
- The comments/suggestions may be forwarded to Secretary, DERC either by post or through e-mail to secyderc@nic.in till 21/02/2018 upto 4.00 PM
- The Tariff Petitions are available on the website of DERC www.derc.gov.in

(Surendra Edupghanti)
Secretary, DERC

DIP/SHABDARTH/3175/17-18

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all our subscribers that

Channel:
Shop Direct TV
(LCN 129 & 228)

will not be available on our platform with effect from
22nd February, 2018

VIDEOCON 
Digital DTH Service
Issued by
Videocon d2h Limited
Mumbai

Date: 1st February, 2018

DEMAND NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-11

R.C. 353/16 J & K Bank Vs Balveer Singh yadav
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE OF 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961

To,
CDT: Mr. Balveer Singh Yadav, S/o Karpal Singh, A-60, Hari Nagar Jaipur, New Delhi 110044.
Also at: A-60, Sector-25, Sarajay Nagar, Ghaziabad, UP.
Also at: C/o Mrs Gauri Narain Enterprises Having its Regd. Office at E-2, Hari Nagar, Part-I, Jaipur, New Delhi-110044. Also at: B-19, Anilshikha Bhawan, Connaught Place, New Delhi.
CDD: Mr. Devendra Kumar, S/o Shri Raj Kumar, P/o 454, Chhajepur, Sector-65, Noida, UP.
CDS: Mr. Raj Verma, S/o Dinesh Kumar Verma, P/o C-120, Khadda Colony, Jaipur, New Delhi.

This is to notify that as per Recovery Certificate dated 28.9.2016 in C.A No. 9415 by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal Delhi, to pay to the applicant the sum of Rs. 22,37,074/- (Rs. Twenty two lakh thirty seven thousand seventy four only) alongwith pendente and future interest @ 11% p.a. w.e.f. 01.1.2015 is realization and also to pay cost of Rs. 25,000/-.

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks of Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 01.2.2018 for setting down the terms. A conditions of the Procurement of sale at 11.00 a.m. for further proceedings.

4. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal on 06th Dec. 2017.

Sd/-
(S.B. Baidon)
RECOVERY OFFICER
D.R.T.-1, Delhi

seal



TEMPLE TRUST MATA SHRI CHINTPURNI-UNA HIMACHAL PRADESH INVITES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
for Operation, Maintenance, Management and Transfer of Interpretation Centre, Integrated Parking and Tourist Amenities at Temple Trust Mata Shri Chintpurni, Una, Himachal Pradesh through Public Private Partnership ("PPP") on Operation, Maintenance, Management and Transfer (OMMT) basis

The Temple Trust Mata Shri Chintpurni (the "TEMPLE OFFICE") represented by its Temple Officer (the "Authority") is engaged in the development of Temple amenities at Mata Shri Chintpurni. As part of this, the Temple office intends to offer Operation, Maintenance, Management and Transfer of Interpretation Centre, Integrated Parking and Tourist Amenities at Temple Trust Mata Shri Chintpurni, Una, Himachal Pradesh through Public Private Partnership ("PPP") on Operation, Maintenance, Management and Transfer (OMMT) basis (the "Project").

For further details i.e. detailed scope of work, minimum eligibility criteria, bidding procedure and other terms and conditions, please refer to the detailed RFP documents hosted (by 02.02.2018) on our website matashrichintpurni.com or contact at the address given below. The interested bidders are invited to attend the pre bid meeting which shall be held on **20.02.2018 at 11:30 hrs** at Chintpurni, Himachal Pradesh. **For further updates, please visit our website periodically.**

For further information, please contact

Temple Officer
Mata Shri Chintpurni Devi ji,
Chintpurni, Tehsil Amb,
District Una, Himachal Pradesh -177110
Phone: 01976-255818 Fax: 01976-255318,Email: tochintpurni-hp@nic.in

LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL IS ON/BEFORE 13.03.2018 (UPTO 1600 HRS)



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UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS WHICH ENDED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 2017

	3 months ended 31.12.2017 (UNAUDITED)	3 months ended 30.09.2017 (UNAUDITED)	3 months ended 31.12.2016 (UNAUDITED)	9 months ended 31.12.2017 (UNAUDITED)	9 months ended 31.12.2016 (UNAUDITED)	12 months ended 31.03.2017 (AUDITED)
Income						
a) Revenue from Operations	8,464.84	4,655.33	8,418.93	18,326.43	18,036.21	26,356.06
b) Other Income	228.45	52.72	188.84	355.71	289.88	811.58
Total Income	8,693.29	4,708.05	8,607.77	18,682.14	18,326.09	27,167.64
Expenses						
a) Consumption of Provisions, Wines & Others	671.71	411.67	627.35	1,508.98	1,469.43	2,108.08
b) Employee Benefits Expense	1,385.29	1,505.07	1,243.08	4,152.71	3,741.18	5,299.57
c) Finance Costs	12.73	9.72	47.16	27.87	184.29	192.57
d) Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	355.64	360.50	353.32	1,064.87	1,068.88	1,419.35
e) Excise Duty	-	-	6.55	4.30	15.89	21.86
f) Other Expenses	3,211.89	2,622.65	3,137.82	8,456.56	8,073.70	11,632.83
Total Expenses	5,637.26	4,909.61	5,415.28	15,215.29	14,553.37	20,674.26
Profit / (Loss) before tax	3,056.03	(201.56)	3,192.49	3,466.85	3,772.72	6,493.38
Tax Expense						
- Current tax	1,084.45	(18.32)	1,098.10	1,274.14	1,293.90	2,192.83
- Deferred tax	(9.54)	(41.84)	4.94	(47.77)	16.81	22.64
Profit/(Loss) for the period	1,981.12	(141.40)	2,089.45	2,240.48	2,462.01	4,277.91
Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)						
a) Remeasurement of Post-employment benefit obligations	(0.12)	30.56	(33.91)	(0.36)	(153.69)	(123.19)
b) Tax relating to these items	0.04	(10.58)	11.74	0.12	53.19	42.63
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the period	1,981.04	(121.42)	2,067.28	2,240.24	2,361.51	4,197.35
Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	3,046.81	3,046.81	3,046.81	3,046.81	3,046.81	3,046.81
Other Equity excluding Revaluation Reserve						25,056.83
Earnings per Equity Share - (Face Value - ₹ 10 each) - ₹						
(a) Basic	6.50	(0.46)	6.86	7.35	8.08	14.04
(b) Diluted	6.50	(0.46)	6.86	7.35	8.08	14.04

Notes :

- These Financial Results have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles laid down in Ind AS 34 Interim Financial Reporting prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant rules issued thereunder and the other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
- The Company's activity is limited to hotels.
- Earnings Per Share are not annualised except for the year ended 31st March, 2017.
- Figures have been regrouped and/or rearranged, wherever necessary.
- Trident Jaipur is proposed to be closed effective 1st April 2018 for renovations. The hotel is expected to be ready for commercial operations by 31st March, 2019.
- The above Unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at its Meeting held on 31st January, 2018. The Statutory Auditors have carried out a limited review of the above Financial Results.

Bengaluru
31st January, 2018

VIKRAM OBEROI
MANAGING DIRECTOR

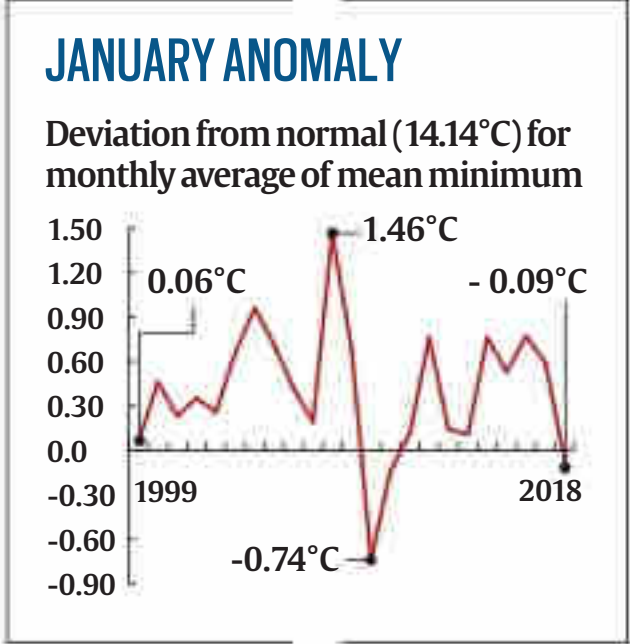
WITNESSEMAN



GREEN DRIVE

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in an autorickshaw, one of a number of alternative-fuel vehicles they inspected in Delhi Wednesday. These included autorickshaws that run on electricity and ethanol, and a flex-engine motorcycle that runs on both petrol and ethanol. Prem Nath Pandey

Against trends, January closes as third coldest in 20 winters



ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, JANUARY 31

AMID A general warming trend across the globe, January in India this year turned out to be the third coldest winter month in India in the last 20 years. The monthly average of mean minimum temperatures over the country was 0.09°C below normal, according to data from the India Meteorology Department.

The normal mean minimum temperature for January, based on the baseline data over the period between 1971 and 2000 is 14.14°C. This is only for the third time in the last 20 years that minimum temperatures have slipped below the normal mark, the previous occasions being in 2011 (0.73°C below normal) and 2012 (0.13°C below).

January this year has been now the 84th coolest month in the temperature time series maintained by IMD since the 1800s.

Though the season was predicted to be warmer than previous winter seasons, night temperatures, particularly in January, were found to be anomalous. Anomaly temperature is the difference between the actual recorded temperature and the normal temperature.

The warmest winter year ever recorded so far remains 2009, when the minimum temperatures recorded was 1.46°C above normal. Warm winters next to that in the list, according to IMD, were during 1919 (1.29°C above normal) and 1958 (1.27°C above normal).

“Though the forecast was for a slightly warmer winter, data now reveals that January was cooler. Despite fewer incidents of cold wave conditions in north India and even fewer days of snowfall in Jammu & Kashmir and other neighbouring states in the north, the winter was cooler than normal,” said D S Pai, head, climate prediction at IMD’s climate research division.

However, maximum temperatures during this season, especially January, were warmer than normal, with the highest recording being 0.62°C above.

“North India this year had fewer days that experienced fog, thus making available clear sky conditions for sunlight penetration onto land. Thus, daytime remained warmer and also humid on many occasions than usually recorded all across the country,” said A K Srivastava, head of IMD’s climate monitoring and analysis division.

Warm day temperatures are also an indicator that there has been limited snowfall in the northern plains.

“Though we are yet to get the amount of actual snowfall, the northern hilly terrains may face water shortage as these areas largely depend upon the melting of snow accumulated during winter months for water. Its absence this year may have some effect in the upcoming summer months,” said senior IMD official.

At seat of tribal movement, CPM assesses BJP and itself

Yechury agrees there is anti-incumbency but sees no alternative for voters; warns about BJP, its tie-up with IPFT and what happened during Partition

ESHA ROY
KALYANPUR, JANUARY 31

THE SMALL town of Kalyanpur in East Tripura is surrounded by paddy fields and large ponds. On Wednesday, the road approaching the football field at the heart of this part-urban, part-rural assembly seat was dotted with red flags of the CPI(M), which were more abundant on the field itself.

Kalyanpur was once at the heart of Tripura’s insurgency, now ended, and its tribal secessionist movement, with the National Liberation Front of Tripura (formed in 1978 with the help of the Mizo National Front) having carried out various operations from Kalyanpur and its surrounding areas. Since the 1970s, the issue of tribal secession would resurface only intermittently — until last year, when a demand for a separate state gained momentum, led by the tribal party IPFT (Indigenous People’s Front of Tripura) that has now tied up with the BJP.

On his campaign for the February 18 elections in Tripura, Kalyanpur was a natural stop for CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury. “When Modi saab comes to Tripura, you must tell the Prime Minister that the country doesn’t need a *netu* but *neeti*. And *neeti* that is in interest of the public. For the BJP there are two Indias — the Rich India or Shining India and then the everyone else or *Tarasta Bharat* (suffering India),” Yechury told a gathering of thousands.

Yechury spoke extensively about the “BJP’s attempt at divisive politics in Tripura”. “They have tied up with IPFT,” he told the crowd. “Do you remember what happened during Partition? If Tripura is divided, the sufferings of Partition will be repeated,” he added. “The Left works for the people. The



Sitaram Yechury addresses a gathering in Kalyanpur, East Tripura. Esha Roy

Left does not want a divided Tripura. You have to defeat IPFT and show those who think that the Left does not exist in India anymore, that the red flag has a future and that Tripura has shown that this future exists.”

On the sidelines of the public meeting, Yechury told *The Indian Express* that he believes the “tactics” the BJP has used elsewhere will not work in the state. “This is a state where people are politically aware — that the state government came to power through a mass struggle and a mass movement. The voter here will not be as pliable to influences of money, threats and intimidation as they

are in other parts of the country. The BJP has perfected the art of losing elections and then forming governments — like they did in Manipur or in Goa. But the government in Tripura is not one of patronage; it is a people’s government,” he said.

Yechury cited Left Front achievements in Tripura — high human development indices,

97% literacy, highest number of man-hours under MNREGA, largest number of *pattas* given to tribals — which the BJP will not be able to defeat with its “divisive politics”.

“There is an incumbency factor, it is true. But where is the alternative for the people?” Yechury said. “The Congress doesn’t exist here anymore. And the BJP’s divisive politics will put them on the backfoot here. I believe that their alliance with the IPFT will be counterproductive and work against them. The IPFT has been aggressively pushing their platform for a separate [state] for tribals. The BJP has been ambiguous about this issue, saying that it stands for social and linguistic uplift and not a separate state. The voters will be able to see through the doublespeak,” he said. He added the Left was not worried about the BJP making inroads.

“It is certain that the BJP will not be forming government. But if they have made inroads it is because they have eaten up all other parties including the tribal parties and the Congress. This is not sustainable in the long run,” he said. “And in any case, this will only last for the time they are in power in Delhi.”



TRIPURA

An officer, a box and Rs 90 lakh in defective banknotes

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JANUARY 31

ENTRUSTED WITH quality control in the Bank Note Press (BNP) in Dewas, Manohar Verma was meant to ensure that defective currency notes were separated after printing and destroyed following a due procedure.

Working for 33 years, Verma, now 55, had risen from lower division clerk to deputy control officer, senior enough to be spared the frisking others are subjected when they go home after work. He was also aware about the movement of CISF guards, the precise area covered by CCTV cameras and of a large pillar in the corridor — and, police say, the fact that the pillar helped escape surveillance. It was his frequent movements near the pillar, where he would bend and drop something in a wooden box, that a guard found suspicious. The next morning, the CISF stilled one of the moving CCTV cameras.

Verma, who was nabbed by CISF and later handed over to the Madhya Pradesh police, reportedly confessed that he would drop a bundle or two of defective notes in the box, and later pick these up and put them in lockers and drawers in his office. Police say he would hide them in his shoes on the way home, and, when it was cold, even stuff some



Manohar Verma’s job was to separate defective notes at the Bank Note Press

notes into his vest, the bulge covered by the jacket. When junior employees go home, they are made to remove their shoes and outer clothes if security staff find anything amiss.

In a brief interaction with the media the

day of his arrest, Verma claimed he was innocent and had been framed. Asked about the reported recovery of notes from his home and office, he repeatedly said, “I will say only in court whatever I have to say.”

Before Shopian, series of futile J&K pleas to prosecute Army men

No case by state against Army personnel has ever reached prosecution stage in civilian court



Shopian residents mourn Rayees Ahmad Ganie, 19, who died Tuesday, the third victim of firing Saturday. Shuaib Masoodi

BASHARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 31

AN FIR by Jammu & Kashmir police against the Army for killing of three civilian protesters in Shopian has divided ruling coalition partners BJP and PDP. Army personnel fired on protesters who were allegedly pelting them with stones Saturday; two persons died that day and the third died Tuesday.

While the BJP has demanded the FIR against the Army be withdrawn, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has said the probe would be taken to its conclusion and that “justice and peace are the two faces of same coin”.

In J&K, where armed forces enjoy protection under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), the process of justice for victims of alleged atrocities by the armed forces is complex. Though police have registered a case, previous such instances show that it does not necessarily mean the Army men, if charged by police, will have to face the court. Going by data from the Ministry of Defence, none of the previous cases has ever proceeded to the stage of prosecution. AFSPA makes it mandatory for the state government to seek sanction from the ministry before prosecuting any Army personnel. And sanction has been denied each time.

On January 1 this year, the government told Rajya Sabha that from 2001 to 2016, the MoD received 50 requests of sanction for prosecution from the J&K government. The ministry denied sanction for prosecution in 47 cases while the other three cases are pending before it. Of the 50 cases, 17 pertained to alleged killing of civilians, 16 to custodial deaths, 8 to alleged custodial disappearances and 4 to alleged rape and molestation.

The Army maintains that its and men and officers accused of human rights violations will be tried in its own courts. In most of the cases pending in civilian courts in J&K, the Army has argued that these be transferred for court martial. Two of these cases, Pathribal and Machil, have become symbolic of a trend.

Pathribal 2000

The Army chose to court-martial the accused soldiers and exonerated them at the evidence stage.

Five Army officers were alleged to have killed five civilians on March 24, 2000, and dubbed them foreign militants of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). The Army announced before then home minister L K Advani that the “five militants” were responsible for the

15-YEAR CHECKLIST

50 Requests by J&K government (2001-16) for Ministry of Defence sanction to prosecute Army men.

47 Requests in which sanction was denied; remaining 3 requests are pending

THE CASES (AS ALLEGED)

Killing of civilians	17
Custodial death	16
Custodial disappearance	8
Rape/molestation	4

Source: Written reply in Rajya Sabha

killing of 35 Sikhs at Chittisinghpura village, south Kashmir, four days previously.

A public outcry led to the J&K government exhuming the five bodies, DNA tests confirmed they were civilians who had gone missing from south Kashmir some days previously. The CBI took over the case, charged the five Army officers with the civilian killings, in the court of the Srinagar chief judicial magistrate.

The Army first argued that they could not be prosecuted under AFSPA. This was turned down in the trial court and later J&K High Court. The Army then went to the Supreme Court, which gave it an option — prosecution in a criminal court or court-martial — and the Army chose the latter. After the “summary of evidence” stage, the Army court said there was no evidence to prosecute the officers.

Machil 2010

On April 29, 2010, the Army claimed to have killed three militants while they were trying to infiltrate into the valley at Machil area of Kupwara. A police probe found that three civilians had been lured for jobs, taken to the Line of Control at Machil and killed in a fake encounter to claim promotion and awards. A case was registered against Army officers and men at the CJM’s court in Sopore. The Army got the case transferred for court-martial.

The Army court sentenced the six accused, including a colonel and a captain, to life imprisonment for killing three civilians in a fake encounter. But the men were bailed out after the Armed Forces Tribunal suspended the sentence pronounced by the court martial.

wife was not aware of his actions.

Dewas SP Anshuman Singh said there is no evidence that Verma used the defective notes in bulk. He said once home, he would further screen the notes to select those he could use. Singh said the officer was very careful when he began stealing notes a few months ago, but later got “reckless”.

Singh said the police are yet to get the standard operating procedure about frisking and checks for officers and staff at BNP, set up in 1974. “We want to know if officers were exempted from checks by a written order when they leave for home,” the SP said.

Despite repeated attempts, senior officials at the BNP could not be contacted for their version to know if the security protocol had been changed in the wake of the incident and the number of staff members suspended for negligence.

Verma has been charged only with theft now. If a large number of currency notes he allegedly stole are found in use, however, more charges would be pressed, police said.

Spread over 185 hectares, BNP comes under Security, Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited and is one of nine facilities - four mints, four presses, one paper mill. It earlier functioned under the Union Finance Ministry before SPMCIL was formed in 2006 under the Companies Act.

14 THE EDITORIAL PAGE



FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

WORDLY WISE

IF I FIND THE CONSTITUTION BEING MISUSED, I SHALL
BE THE FIRST TO BURN IT.
— BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR

Budget for uncertain times



SUNIL JAIN

Higher growth in FY19 requires oil prices to be lower
and rupee to be weaker, neither of which is certain

THE POWER OF MANY

One-nation-one-poll flattens political diversities in a federal
democracy, undermines accountability

BAD IDEAS SELDOM wither away — they can resurface and return to haunt in the President's address to the joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament, or in the Prime Minister's meeting with allies. The notion of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, in the public domain for long, has in the past been advocated by the Election Commission, examined by the parliamentary standing committee and the Niti Aayog, and promoted by senior politicians. Now, it seems to be acquiring a troubling new momentum. Frequent elections “adversely impact the economy and development” said President Ram Nath Kovind to Parliament this week, as he called for a “sustained debate” and “a consensus” on simultaneous polls. And PM Narendra Modi reportedly urged the BJP's allies to create an atmosphere in its favour. Simultaneous polls is a bad idea not just because it is impractical and unworkable in the current constitutional framework, but more because it is anti-democratic and disrespectful of the spirit of federalism at its core.

Elections were simultaneously held to the Lok Sabha and to state assemblies when independent India first began holding them, but the cycles diverged after 1967 due to premature dissolution of some assemblies and because general elections were called early in 1970. Ever since, and especially after the splintering of the Congress system, the rise of regional parties, the intensification of multi-party competition and onset of coalition politics, different states have evolved their own formats and electoral cycles that may or may not coincide with each other or with the Centre. Imposing an artificial uniformity and fixity on the several election calendars in the name of reducing expenses, or greater convenience or better governance — arguments for which no persuasive case has been made yet — will have costs that must be seen to be fundamental and intolerable in a diverse, federal democracy. Amendments will be required to the Constitution and to laws like the Representation of the People Act to fix the terms of legislatures and to ensure that a no-confidence motion should also propose an alternative governing arrangement. In effect, that will mean a dilution of the representativeness and accountability of governments. It will also potentially flatten out political diversities and smooth the way for a more presidential, more unitary system that would ill fit a country as plural as India.

That different sets of issues and players are salient at different levels of a federal polity should be seen as a sign of the deepening of democracy. “One nation, one poll” may sound like a promise of more neatness and order, but its underlying threat of forcible homogenisation must be recognised and resisted. And then, in a country where accountability structures are still only weakly institutionalised, elections offer vital opportunities for the people to confront their elected representatives, demand answers from them and a hearing.

ON THE FACE of it, getting to the Economic Survey's higher FY19 GDP forecast of 7-7.5 per cent as compared to this year's 6.75 per cent shouldn't be too difficult. The growth-dampening impact of both GST and demonetisation is behind us and a moderate pick-up in exports, the result of powerful global growth, should do the trick. The question, however, is whether this will be sustainable and whether this will create jobs.

The answer to both is iffy, indeed even the FY19 growth forecast requires oil prices to fall — the good news is US shale output is rising a bit — and the rupee to be weak. But an inflation-combating RBI is unlikely to lower interest rates, and the high rates attract global capital flows in both debt and equity markets — that keeps the rupee strong, encourages imports, which then lowers domestic industrial activity and makes exports that much more uncompetitive.

A big factor in the story of India's recovery was meant to be the dollar getting stronger due to US growth picking up and firms like Apple bringing back billions of dollars of back-taxes to the US — the dollar, however, has weakened against other currencies like the pound and that has kept the rupee strong. If India's exports don't grow fast — India's labour laws have kept firms small and already lowered their competitiveness — that puts a ceiling to GDP growth in FY19.

What, then, will stimulate jobs which are critical for consumption growth to get strong? Analysis of EPFO data by IIM Bangalore's Pulak Ghosh and SBI's Soumya Kanti Ghosh suggests that 4.5-5 million formal sector jobs were created in each of the last two years, but this sounds problematic. Since the total number of genuine EPFO accounts is in the region of 50-60 million, this would mean a sixth got created in just the last two years when the economy was limping. That said, it is equally true that the official data on jobless growth doesn't sound

kosher either.

Reviving investment is the most obvious solution, but as the Survey points out, since this is largely the consequence of firms being debt-stressed, revival is not easy. And while the Insolvency Code's role in selling off these debt-stressed companies at a discount is very important — only when firms are not debt-stressed can they invest more — this is not a short-term palliative. In the past, and in the budget later today as well, the government will try and boost public sector capex, but this is minuscule compared to the private sector capex that has disappeared. But while it is true debt-stressed firms will take a few years to invest, in areas where firms are still keen to invest like oil and telecom — despite the RJio havoc — government policy has been quite unfriendly. In both cases, nothing has been done to cut very high government levies though this has been known for years. In the case of oil, gas prices haven't been fully freed despite it being obvious that the administered prices were unremunerative.

Given this, and the fact that the government is now in the last year before elections, the expectations to splurge on all manner of sops is naturally high. In the farm sector, where prices have crashed due to a bumper crop, there is a demand that the government hike minimum support prices (MSP) and procure more at this price; since Madhya Pradesh is trying to give farmers a deficiency payment if market prices fall below MSP, there is a demand the Centre also try this.

While a certain amount of extra spending can't be ruled out, this has to be kept at a minimum. If it is not, the bond markets will get even more spooked than they are right now, interest rates will rise and, to that extent, will dampen whatever industrial activity there is right now. While genuine privatisation of PSUs is the best, even if the government is not up for this, it can get over Rs 2.7 lakh crore if it lowers its stake in 69

listed PSUs to 51 per cent. This sounds like selling the family silver to pay the grocer, but since a large part of government expenditure is capex on railways and roads, it is really asset recycling which is a good thing.

The budget, while keeping a tight rein on the fiscal deficit, must focus on reforms, some of which, as it happens, will also get the government votes. Instead of the huge fertiliser subsidy that is cornered by a small number of rich farmers, give each farmer a cash subsidy; pare down MSP-based procurement that benefits large farmers in a few states and, instead, give per acre cash payments to farmers. Allow FDI in food retail so that farmers can benefit from direct purchases from them, do not stop farm exports every time inflation levels rise and, since the BJP is in power in 19 states, direct their chief ministers to genuinely free up cartelised mandis, ensure contract farming and allow large buyers to buy directly from the farm. Ideally a GST-council like body of state agriculture ministers should be created to fix the sector's problems but at least start in 19 states.

Simplify GST further and, since revenues now look on track and thanks to GST and demonetisation, direct taxes are also quite buoyant, use the fiscal space created to lower both corporate and personal income tax rates — apart from stimulating investment, this will also increase spending power. While the large number of tax disputes give India a bad name — these total Rs 7.6 lakh crore or 4.7 per cent of GDP — why not create a body that has the power to settle these cases; unlike in many countries, India has no body where an across-the-table settlement can take place. That's potentially a huge source of income and will also improve the country's business rankings. In short, it is possible to be both pragmatic and populist at the same time.

The writer is managing editor, The Financial Express

FITTEST OF THEM ALL

TMC's checklist for Opposition leadership ducks the main
issue: The lack of an independent vision for a prospective front

WHILE THE TOP leadership of the Opposition block (to be) tests the waters in search of unity for the 2019 general elections, the Trinamool Congress has formalised its refusal to be led by the Congress under Rahul Gandhi. Its reluctance was already known, but now it has issued a checklist of credentials it deems necessary for the prospective leader of the front. The candidate must be an undisputed party supremo, must be a serving chief minister, and should have been a Union cabinet minister and an MP for a considerable period. This checklist has the effect of eliminating all contenders except those from the east — Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

The list of criteria, reeled off by TMC national spokesman Derek O'Brien, is a clever stratagem, but its effect is not insalubrious. It underlines the end of an era of Congress entitlement, when the party could expect to lead any alliance on the strength of seniority alone. Now, the Congress shares the Opposition space with other parties in a number of states — some of which are heading for assembly elections — and cannot claim automatic primacy. There may be compelling tactical arguments for rejecting the leadership of Rahul Gandhi in favour of that of another, more seasoned leader. To be sure, Naveen Patnaik has been consolidating his authority in the state and projecting himself nationally. And Mamata Banerjee could be said to have considerable experience in the ways of both agitation and negotiation.

But should the Opposition be agonising about the topping even before the dish is in the oven? P Chidambaram's expectation of Opposition unity in 2019 through a “broad consensus” suggests that the Congress knows that a meeting of minds on multiple specific issues may remain elusive. More importantly, the Opposition parties have not been able to express a coherent vision of their own. They are largely restricted to reacting to the policies and pronouncements of the government, suggesting to the electorate that the BJP continues to set the agenda. The mantle of leadership of an Opposition front would fall naturally on a politician who articulates an independent narrative for the future. If and when that happens, the TMC's wish list would be quickly forgotten.

SAME OLD TRUMP

Despite cosmetic attempts at a conciliatory tone, US president's
State of the Union address was in keeping with his story so far

THERE ARE TWO ways to look at US President Donald Trump's first State of the Union address to American legislators. His invocation of a “new American moment” and call to “set aside our differences, to seek common ground... to deliver for the people we were elected to serve” holds out the hope that the weight of his office has led him to temper his divisive agenda and that he may yet grow into the role he was elected to. On the other hand, Trump attacked, once again, his predecessor and made exaggerated claims about his successes, particularly on the economic front.

On domestic policy, behind a conciliatory tone, Trump reiterated his maximalist position on arguably the most partisan issue in the US — immigration. He proposed a compromise between Democrats and Republicans by promising nearly two million “Dreamers” (children brought to America by illegal immigrants) legal status in return for funding for the infamous “wall”. Trump said precious little about foreign policy: A predictable, if subdued denunciation of North Korea; boasts about having “liberated” Iraq and Syria from ISIS; and “tough sanctions on the communist and socialist dictatorships in Cuba and Venezuela”; and the promise to keep the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay open. Perhaps the most worrying sign was Trump's request that Congress stop aid to countries that are “not America's friends” for voting in the UN against his decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

After a year of unprecedented polarisation, the US president is making an attempt to play the statesman. Unfortunately, Trump is caught in the demagogue's trap. For him, the past is miserable — he attacked his predecessor's healthcare law as well as the diplomatic outreach to Iran. The future is uncertain among enemies without and within, and an insular approach is the only way to protect citizens' interests. Despite some cosmetic attempts at overcoming this narrative, built during his campaign, Trump largely stuck to what he knows best.



SATYAM VISWANATHAN

YET ANOTHER ETHEREAL Federer triumph sends feel-good vibrations rippling across the globe. Roger Federer wins and weeps, he talks about his fear of losing and how much the title means to him, he is gracious about his fallen rival. We can't get enough of the nice-guy-finishing-first narrative. Charming, well-spoken, multi-lingual, sensitive and sophisticated — both Federer and Rafael Nadal are at the receiving end of such widespread and over-effusive adoration not just for the quality of their tennis, but also because they fit the modern template for how successful men are supposed to conduct themselves.

It is fashionable in many quarters today to pillory the bad-boys — Virat Kohli and tennis's Nick Kyrgios to name a few — for their boorish, self-aggrandising, in-your-face behaviour. They appear to be misfits in the modern template of understated, unruffled, ostensibly self-effacing success. Donald Trump is scorned for his uncouth behaviour, offensive tweets, limited vocabulary, and rabble-raising antics. That he came to power immediately after the elegant, eloquent, worldly-wise Barack Obama (the Federer of world politics if you will) makes his presence all the more jarring.

For those of us operating in the real world this is all very confusing. Sure, we're privileged to witness these once-in-a-century talents during our lifetimes but why must our admiration for Federer and Nadal be infused with nice-guy references, glorifying qualities like humility, vulnerability and emotional expressiveness? How do we square these qualities with our lived experience of what it takes to prosper in today's world?

A closer examination of these icons

WHY WE LOVE TO LOVE FEDERER

We adore icons for their humility when the real world tends to reward the opposite

might help clear the fog. It is clearly not the case that either Federer or Nadal are exemplars of chivalry and humility. Both have prickly egos that detest threats from pretenders to their thrones (Federer's caustic tongue has targeted Novak Djokovic on more than a few occasions, while his wife has openly heckled Stan Wawrinka during a match; Nadal's fury at perceived slights from the likes of Robin Soderling has led to much bad blood). Both are ruthless when it comes decimating opponents on the court but exude warmth and emotional intelligence once the battle is over. Both strut like peacocks in custom-made outfits, sporting their personal brand logos, intimidating opponents with their sartorial splendour and high self-regard. At the core, both possess a cunning and talent for deceit that they release in just the right doses at just the right times (seen in Federer's strategically timed medical breaks and Nadal's well-known time wasting tactics). As a result, they are able to retain a gentlemanly aura while slaughtering opponents mercilessly in tennis's gladiatorial arenas.

Federer and Nadal appear to have cracked the code for the modern-day human ideal because they have found a rare equilibrium — between sophistication and savagery, self-love and empathy, ruthlessness and generosity. Perhaps what we ought to admire about the two icons is not their humility and emotional warmth, but their near miraculous ability to reconcile wildly opposing instincts and project an equilibrium that reflects the changing sensibilities of our times. In India, M S Dhoni performs a similar high-wire act.

rated qualities in the real world. We advise our children to imbibe these “good values” from our idols but we are probably giving them the wrong counsel. To succeed in sports, politics and hyper-competitive modern life requires an element of narcissism, near-maniacal self-belief, a finely-honed killer instinct, and the right amount of deceitfulness. To trample on the dreams of others, to physically and mentally dismantle them in full public glare, to take life-and-death decisions every day, requires tremendous mental toughness.

We want to believe that heartless animal instincts are punished while human “refinement” is rewarded so we partake in a public hypocrisy that glorifies false ideals. Kohli and Kyrgios use their over-the-top antics to intimidate their rivals. Trump's unfiltered behaviour may be severely at odds with modern-day norms, but his ability to disorient the opposition and garner real rewards may be higher as a result (as witnessed in his victories with regard to composition of the Supreme Court, tax laws, environmental policy and the stock market).

To rise to the top, some element of personality disorder and self-delusion is perhaps a requirement. When confronted with too much of these qualities — we call it sociopathic behaviour (Trump), when faced with too little — we call it meekness (Manmohan Singh).

Federer, Nadal, Obama, and Dhoni manage to get the balance just right. Perhaps it is this ability to reconcile contradictory instincts in a palatable equilibrium that makes them icons for our times.

The writer is a consumer researcher

FEBRUARY 1, 1978, FORTY YEARS AGO

CONGRESS SYMBOLS

THE CONGRESS WILL fight the February Assembly elections with the party's eight-year-old symbol, cow and calf, following Mrs Gandhi's withdrawal of her appeal to the Supreme Court. Buta Singh, general secretary of Mrs Gandhi's party, applied to the Election Commission for the allotment of a common symbol, “a farmer with two bullocks”, to the rebel Congress candidates. Two bullocks with the yoke on was the election symbol of the Congress until the split on the eve of the 1971 general elections.

NIJALINGAPPA RESIGNS

S NIJALINGAPPA, THE septuagenarian Janata

Party leader and former chief minister of Karnataka, has resigned from the party and quit politics. Nijalingappa told this newspaper that the selection of Janata Party candidates for the Assembly elections had left him depressed. He complained that a number of defectors, who had recently walked over to the party from the Congress, had been given tickets. “How can I ask for votes from the people for these defectors,” he asked.

CENTRE-AKALI ROW

A MAJOR POLITICAL row brewing between the Centre and Punjab over the control of three water channel headworks, could affect the Janata-Akali alliance at the Centre. Prime

Minister Morarji Desai has written to Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal that Punjab has a statutory obligation to hand over the headworks at Ferozepur, Harike and Ropar to the Centre under the Punjab Reorganisation Act. Desai pointed out that clearance for the Thein Dam project was given on the understanding that the headworks would be transferred to the Bhakra Management Board.

JANATA DISCONTENT

THERE IS DISCONTENT among Janata workers in several constituencies of greater Bombay and the rest of Maharashtra over the alleged “wrong” choice of candidates by the party high command for assembly elections.



15 THE IDEAS PAGE

Three un-Davos men

The culture of contradiction infused the speeches of Modi, Trump and Xi at the World Economic Forum



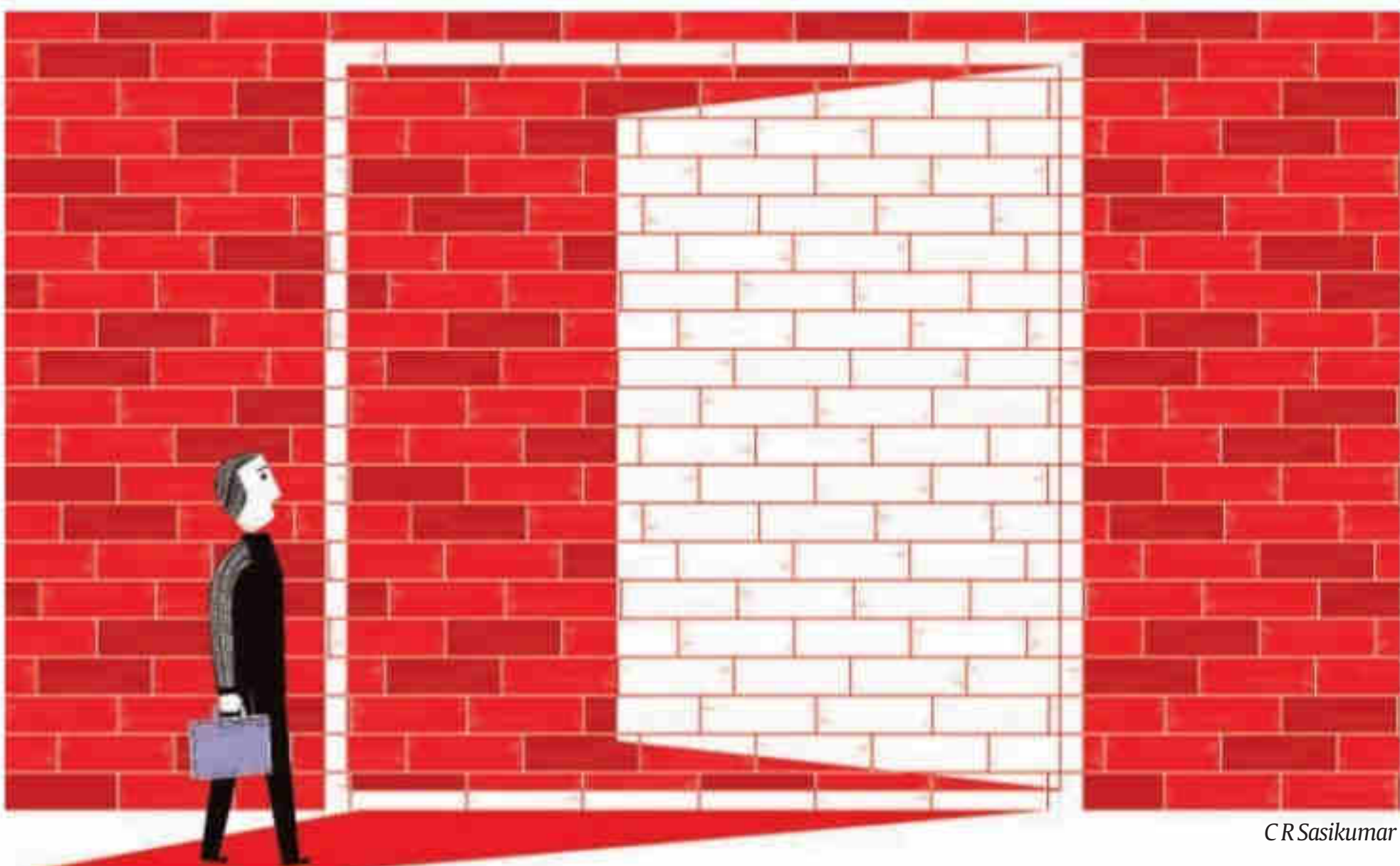
BHASKAR CHAKRAVORTI

THE HARVARD POLITICAL scientist, Samuel Huntington, is most well-known for the idea of a clash of civilisations: Post-Cold War conflicts, he anticipated, would be between clashing cultures rather than between ideologies or sovereign states. Not as well-known is another idea from Huntington: The rise of the Davos Man, a new breed of elite who has “little need for national loyalty, view(s) national boundaries as obstacles that thankfully are vanishing, and see(s) national governments as residues from the past whose only useful function is to facilitate the elite’s global operations.” Davos is, of course, where such men (and, alas, they are still mostly men) brave bad weather and even worse traffic to congregate every January; the latest congregation concluded just last week. Since the news media loves to follow celebrity, there are few places that garner as much interest, especially remarkable for how little actually gets done there. What is even more remarkable is that the biggest news headlines in recent years were not about the Davos men that congregated on Davos, but about the un-Davos men who gate-crashed the party.

The visionary organisers of Davos, the World Economic Forum, Klaus Schwab and his dedicated team of lieutenants, (full disclosure: I serve on one of their Global Future Councils) have been nudging the Davos narrative in a different direction — towards a collection of transformational technologies — a Fourth Industrial Revolution that enables the Davos Man’s wildest dreams and is inclusive in the benefits it confers on the billions that shall never visit Davos. But the gate-crashing by un-Davos men may be hijacking the narrative.

Last year, all of Davos was in post-Trumpian plus post-Brexit shock and this created the perfect opportunity for the incursion. Chinese president Xi Jinping seized the chance to fill a vacuum and made an unprecedented appearance. It cannot be argued that Xi — the man with more than a dozen governing titles, including president, general secretary of the Communist Party and chairman of the Central Military Commission, core leader, “chairman of everything”...I can go on — would ever entertain the silly idea of “national governments as residues from the past”. Without question, he would fail the test of Davos manhood. His appearance seems to have emboldened others. This year, Xi was followed by two more prominent un-Davos men: Narendra Modi and Donald Trump himself.

None of these men are ideologues in the classic sense. They are the latest incarnations of Huntington’s culture warriors — they are masters of the culture of contradictions. Xi has revived his own form of Maoism, with unchallenged state control, now sauced up with dollops of market- and technology-infused pragmatism. Modi, for his part, embraces Hindutva and foreign leaders with equal vigour and is equally facile at following ancient texts and his WhatsApp feed to check on who has responded to his daily greetings. As for Trump, he is consistent only in playing to the base that brought him to power and to



CR Sasikumar

his own base instincts. He can also talk up America like a luxury condo he has developed for the exclusive use of global investors even as he sends strong signals that the condo is not open to the riff-raff, especially from certain continents or certain religions. These are the unDavos Men, who are consistent in their adherence to contradiction.

The culture of contradiction infused their Davos speeches. Most significantly, they spoke of openness while closing doors or building walls back home. Xi said: “China will keep its doors wide open”. Modi, too, dutifully, repeated this year: “We want to open the door.” As for Trump, his most memorable line was: “America first does not mean America alone.” As the condo salesman, he encouraged the Davos men to visit. “Now is the perfect time to bring your business, your jobs, and your investments to the United States.” This is the new language meant to displace that old “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me” — Emma Lazarus’ sonnet still adorning the Statue of Liberty does seem a tad anachronistic and badly in need of a software update.

Of course, in keeping with their penchant for contradiction, for each of the un-Davos men, the reality they left behind at home was out of sync with the rhetoric in the high valley. While Xi delivered his rapturously received speech last year, China was pursuing its “toughest crackdown on critical voices in two decades”, according to the executive director of Human Rights Watch. Foreign NGOs had to enlist state agencies as official sponsors, and to register with the police. Facebook was still banned, Google was mostly out of reach and Apple was being pressured to take down virtual private network services that would allow users to get around China’s “Great Firewall” to Google and Facebook.

For Modi, the open door rests on rusty hinges. The Indian government, while encouraging foreign investment, combines the policy with many countervailing policies. For example, it will restrict imports into India to drive multinationals to manufacture in India even if the core infrastructure — physical, human and financial — needed to make such operations attractive is still not there. The

None of these men are ideologues in the classic sense. They are the latest incarnations of Huntington’s culture warriors — they are masters of the culture of contradictions. Xi has revived his own form of Maoism, with unchallenged state control, now sauced up with dollops of market- and technology-infused pragmatism. Modi, for his part, embraces Hindutva and foreign leaders with equal vigour and is equally facile at following ancient texts and his WhatsApp feed to check on who has responded to his daily greetings. As for Trump, he is consistent only in playing to the base that brought him into power and to his own base instincts.

Davos men are confused by a government that persists with stiff tariffs on imports of products ranging from cellphones, video cameras and televisions as well as on much-needed solar panels.

Trump, of course, is the grandmaster of contradictions. Even if he takes great pride in being the slasher of business taxes and regulations, there seems to be no limit to the number of international agreements that Trump has on his kill list: From the Paris climate deal and the Trans Pacific Partnership, both killed, to the North American Free Trade Agreement, and even the World Trade Organisation. Combine these with his single-minded focus on curbing immigration and slandering immigrants of certain kinds, the suggestion is that America could end up alone if he has his way.

Now, it is not entirely out of place for politicians to say one thing and do the opposite. It’s just that the true Davos men command technologies, capital and jobs and they will move all three across any border if it helps them grow their business and spike profits. They are awed and intrigued by the political leaders who attend gatherings such as Davos, but they also expect the latter to be in sales mode. The contradictory messaging from the world’s two most significant economies and one that aspires to be the third most significant economy in the not-too-distant future, makes the sales pitch less than compelling.

This year’s Davos was held at a time when every major economy is growing. In this environment, it is easy to overlook the cornucopia of contradictions. Next year, we may not be so lucky. The bull run will not last forever. We may witness a culture clash between the Davos men and the un-Davos men crashing their party in coming years. This is a problem up in the Swiss Alps, but it is an even bigger problem when this clash affects the lives of the billions of the never-Davos men and women, who must bear the consequences of stalled global prosperity.

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Mr Trump said he would bring the immigration system into the 21st century. He’s actually trying to drag it back to a shameful, bigoted past”.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

What the budget must bring

It must increase rural investment, rationalise GST, income and corporate taxes to improve incomes and create jobs



DEVASHISH MITRA

TODAY’S UNION BUDGET will be the last full budget before next year’s general election. In such a situation, in any democracy, there is an incentive for the government to announce populist policies, especially those that yield quick political returns. Economic reforms are generally given low priority in pre-election budgets.

Given that rural India constitutes two-thirds of the country’s population, it won’t be surprising to see the agricultural sector being generously rewarded. We know that agricultural income is not taxed in India, a feature of the Indian tax system not expected to change soon. In addition, there are agricultural subsidies for seeds, fertilisers, power, credit, etc., and minimum support prices. All of these are expected to stay in place. While I really don’t expect that these support prices and subsidies will be raised (given the pressure from various quarters not to raise the fiscal deficit), this should not be completely ruled out in this pre-election year.

However, the government has an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone, that is, win the support of the rural population and at the same time do something in the long-run interest of the country. Both these goals could be accomplished by increasing investment in rural roads, schools, clinics, irrigation facilities, etc. These initiatives can be politically as effective as subsidies, but, in contrast, not at all economically wasteful, in that their long-run economic benefits will outweigh costs. In fact, these investments should be part of the government’s overall efforts at expanding and improving the quality of public health, education and infrastructure across the nation. Going by the interviews of NITI Aayog’s vice-chairman, I expect these items to figure prominently in the budget speech. Another item, going by those interviews, would be incentives to switch farmers from foodgrains to higher valued cash crops and agricultural products to boost agricultural incomes — a step in the right direction.

A recent reform has been FDI liberalisation in single-brand retail, construction development and real-estate brokerage, where the automatic approval route has been allowed for 100 per cent foreign investment. Forty-nine per cent investment by foreign airlines in Air India has also been allowed. However, just allowing FDI does not mean it will actually flow in. India needs to be attractive to foreign investors. This is certainly not the case with India’s current corporate tax rate of 30 per cent, which is much higher than in most OECD countries as well as emerging economies trying to attract FDI. Besides, multinationals who have entered then have the incentive to transfer some of their incomes to their respective home countries by manipulating their books, a method popularly known as “transfer pricing”.

ing”. The budget needs to announce a modest reduction in this corporate tax to about 27 per cent, as part of longer-term gradual reforms. In a pre-election year, it would be unrealistic to expect anything more major that would have the optics of being pro-rich. Ultimately, a lot here depends on the government’s ability to sell this policy to the electorate as job-creating.

The last couple of quarters have seen a considerable decline in growth, with the projected growth rate for the current fiscal year being 6.5 per cent. One could view this growth deceleration as a temporary impact of demonetisation as well as problems with the implementation of GST. While demonetisation was an ill-conceived shock to the economy, I view GST as a good policy reform, whose implementation and structure will need some adjustment, in addition to the fine tuning that has already taken place. I hope that, in today’s budget, the current multiple rates are reduced to just a couple, with the ultimate goal of rolling them into one, and the filing process is simplified, making GST a truly “good and simple tax”, as the prime minister likes to call it. It is not unreasonable to expect revenues to go up through such simplifications, which will also go a long way in enhancing the “ease of doing business” and the formalisation of the economy.

Moving to income tax, the maximum tax-exempt threshold should be raised from Rs 2.5 lakh per year to Rs 3–3.5 lakh. While this is clearly good politics, it is also good economics when growth has declined. The propensity to consume for people in these lowest tax brackets is very high and giving them extra disposable income will provide a stimulus to the economy and job creation. In fact, some tax breaks for people in slightly higher income brackets (say, up to incomes of Rs 20 lakh per annum) will also help in this regard. A slight increase in the tax rates on the highest income brackets will get these revenues back, without negatively affecting this stimulus. Of course, economic growth itself will help with revenue generation. Moreover, these changes to the tax schedule will reduce the inequality of disposable income.

I had argued in an earlier article that recent hikes in electronics import duties don’t help at all with job creation and add relatively little to revenues. They also strengthen protectionist forces, spreading them to the rest of the economy. Given our pre-1991 experience with import protection, at the very least, increases in duties on imported inputs (LCD/LED screens used in domestic TV manufactures) need to be rolled back. Exports of labour-intensive manufactures, especially textiles and apparel and domestically assembled electronics, certainly need promotion through duty-free imports of inputs and other indirect tax exemptions. The much-needed FDI in these sectors will then be encouraged. Even if the corporate tax rate cannot be lowered across the board, the government should consider reducing it for labour-intensive manufacturing.

The writer is professor of economics and Cramer Professor of Global Affairs at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, New York

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CLEAR THE AIR

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Choice in Nagaland’ (IE, January 31). The proposed poll boycott by all the major political parties in Nagaland is of great concern. The demand for “Naga sovereignty” and the creation of “Greater Nagalim” are controversial issues which will require protracted negotiations between the Centre, affected states and Naga groups. This issue becomes more complex due to presence of numerous groups claiming to be representatives of Naga society. The Centre must first make public the details of the Framework Agreement for the Naga Accord of 2015. While there seems to be a lack of urgency from the central government in this regard, the poll boycott is no solution. All stakeholders must come together to resolve the issue.

Shambhoo Yadav, New Delhi

MAMATA’S AMBITION

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘TMC indicates unwilling to be led by UPA, sets criteria for 2019 leader’ (IE, January 31). Without cohesion, opposition unity will be nothing more than an electoral bargaining chip. No regional leader can be the face of the Opposition at the national level. Mamata Banerjee doesn’t believe in divergent views and inner-party democracy. Her proposed “federal front” received little traction in 2014. The Trinamool Congress’s bid to become the face of the Opposition is ridiculous.

SS Paul, Nadia

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

DEFENCE REALITY

THIS REFERS TO the article ‘Not made in India’ (IE, January 31). Kargil and the recent so-called “surgical strike” are enough to explain the lack of military preparedness. The state of our indigenous projects like LCA and LCH further illustrate the lack of capability in the design and development of inventory. The article has hit the nail on the head.

Vasant Nalawade, Satara



TELESCOPE

BY SHAILAJA BAJPAI

HERE IS A sporting declaration: I do declare, it’s been a treat to watch the games people play. Gavaskar’s “sissies” bounced South Africa out of the Wanderers’ Test, the U-19 team feasted on Pakistan to the Gill, Saina almost smashed her way to an Indonesian Masters title and “IPL’s Next Superstars” threatened to upset India’s Next Superstars in the talent hunt reality show segment, while Roger Federer cried all the way to the dressing room — and the bank — all because he won a paltry 20th Grand Slam trophy (just kidding).

People may switch off news channels because they have less news and more abuse (mostly), switch to streaming options like Hotstar or Netflix because entertainment channels are about as entertaining as the news channels — actually, TV news is more entertainment than newsy — replete with historical blunders such as *Porus*, *Prithvi Vallabh* (Sony), *Chandra Nandini* (Star Plus) and Hindu irreparably-divided families, but we will continue to watch television for the sports channels.

First, Kasganj where violence killed one person. This demanded sensitivity because what began as a patriotic flag march and Republic Day commemoration, appears to have ended as Hindu-Muslim stand-off.

It happened in Kasganj

Hindi channels’ coverage was more sober, balanced than that of English channels

“Azam (Khan) makes it communal”, announced Republic on Wednesday baldly, suffering from acute amnesia since BJP MP Vinay Katiyar had broadcast his communal views on all channels including Republic the day before. To say nothing of the widely telecast sound bites of Union minister Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti on anti-nationals who don’t like “tiranga yatras”.

Times Now had a video grab of police reportedly finding a cache of arms in the home of Salim Javed, the man who allegedly killed Chandan in the violence on January 26. “Why was he keeping illegal weapons?” asked the anchor, (“are we” not allowed to ask if it was pre-planned?”) Of course you are allowed to ask but we know that your asking is often tantamount to insinuation and accusation. In a “sensational twist” (note, Times Now calls the twist “sensational”), it also found that Javed was (may be) linked to the Samajwadi Party.

One video grab deserves another. So India Today had footage where some people on the tiranga yatra were shouting provocative slogans. Are we allowed to ask if that was pre-planned?

On NDTV 24x7, the anchor asked Rakesh Sinha (identified as an RSS ideologue) if the ABVP was part of the motorbike-led tiranga yatra, to which he promptly replied, “There

were Muslims there”. Alright, but was the ABVP part of it? Muslims were there, he repeated, repeatedly.

If you wanted to make any sense of the incident, you were better off watching India TV and Rajat Sharma. On Monday, he described the sequence of events leading up to the violence, had Chandan’s family on air, and then warned against believing social media mischief-making messages that had photo-shopped “Pakistan Zindabad” voice-overs superimposed on the meeting held by Muslims. On Tuesday, he said the BJP must rein in people like Katiyar and Jyoti. On a more positive and conciliatory note, he featured one Akram, who was injured in the violence and recounted how he had been rescued by some tiranga yatra Hindus.

By the way, CNN News 18 produced the police FIRs in Kasganj and found no mention of Pakistan slogans in them. So where does that leave the case? Where it should be: At the level of investigation.

Hindi news channels’ coverage has been far more sober and balanced than that of English news channels. Also, they seem willing to question the government in power: On Tuesday, News State examined the pollution levels in Banaras, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s constituency, and found

the BJP wanting; Samay allowed the Congress spokesperson to have his complete say criticising the BJP government.

The Vivo IPL auction’s biggest catch was Anil Kumble — in the Star Sports studio. He was an expert commentator on the players’ and team combination, alongside “Dino” Jones and anchor Mayanti Langer. Now isn’t she as pleasant as a warm winter’s day? This is Star Sports’ IPL debut and they have gone that extra metre: Analysis so in-depth, you yearned to return to the surface, interviews at the auction with team owners, managers, coaches tele-talks with auctioned players with the ubiquitous (news) question: How does it feel, or words to that effect.

And guess who sat between judges Karan Johar and Rohit Shetty as chief guest on *India’s Next Superstars* (Star Plus)? If you guess Kangana Ranaut you’re cheating — you watched Sunday’s episode. Yes, the actress who accused the director of “nepotism” in Bollywood, graced the sets of the reality show and hugged Johar — a la Narendra Modi?

Also, guess who showed the film *Veer Savarkar* and who premiered *Partition: 1947* on Republic Day? Your options are Star Gold and DD National.

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SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE

Well, if you thought Michael Wolff's book was dynamite, just wait till you read Luke Harding's *Collusion*. Meticulously, scrupulously researched, leaves no room for doubt. Utterly damning. Devastating. Putin comes across as a deeply nasty piece of work, Trump a blundering idiot.

RICHARD DAWKINS, British biologist and writer, 2.63 million followers on Twitter, submitting his quick, strongly-worded review of two new books on the Donald Trump White House.

Five things to look out for in today's Budget

As Finance Minister Arun Jaitley rises to present the last full Budget of the NDA government, top-of-mind will be deficits and taxes — personal income-tax rates, capital gains tax on stock market investments, tax on dividend income, and corporate tax. Here's a route map to negotiate the Budget speech.



SIMPLY PUT

BY SHAJI VIKRAMAN & HARISH DAMODARAN

EXPRESS EDITORS INTERPRET

1 Given the increase in the Centre's net direct tax collections and the widening of the taxpayer base, is a reduction in personal income-tax likely in the Union Budget?

The last Budget had halved the tax rate on the personal income slab between Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 5 lakh to 5%. That move — reducing the tax liability, including of people with incomes in the subsequent slabs, from Rs 25,000 to Rs 12,500 — cost the exchequer an estimated Rs 15,500 crore. Further rate cuts would, therefore, seem difficult. But then, the Centre's net direct tax collections (from personal and corporate incomes) during April-December 2017 have been 18.2% higher than for the same period of the previous year, and more than the budgeted 15.7% growth for 2017-18. Also, the Economic Survey has shown 18 lakh new individual income-tax filers being added, over and above the trend growth, between November 2016 and November 2017. The significantly widened tax base and higher compliance post-demonetisation and GST should allow for some concessions, particularly to those not resorting to any evasion.

While revenue considerations may not permit rate reductions, there is a possibility of the Budget raising the limit for claiming deductions under Section 80C of the Income-Tax Act. Such deduction — reducing the effective taxable income — is currently available on aggregate annual investments of up to Rs 1.5 lakh in the Employees' Provident Fund, Public Provident Fund, equity-linked savings schemes, unit-linked insurance plans, etc., in addition to expenses such as life insurance premiums, home loan principal repayment and payment of tuition fees. The Section 80C limit was increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh in the 2014-15 Budget. In the government's last full Budget, this limit

END-OF-TERM BUDGETS: WHAT EARLIER GOVTS DID

UPA 2 LAST FULL BUDGET, 2013-14
PCHIDAMBARAM, FEB 28, 2013

The last full Budget of the UPA in its second term didn't have much to offer — the economy was in a bad shape with growth stalling, and a huge current account deficit and fiscal deficit. The Finance Minister announced a new investment allowance to encourage new investment, some sops to promote home ownership, and liberalised an equity savings scheme.

UPA 1 LAST FULL BUDGET, 2008-09
PCHIDAMBARAM, FEB 29, 2008

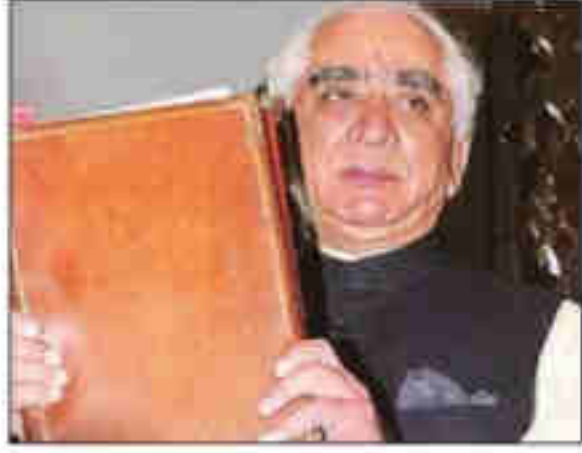
In the last full Budget of UPA 1, Finance Minister Chidambaram announced a farm loan waiver of Rs 50,000 crore and a one-time scheme relief of Rs 10,000 crore; a national rollout of the NREGS with more funds being allocated; and a thrust on financial inclusion — all of which paid rich dividends in the Lok Sabha elections of 2009.

INTERIM BUDGET, 2004-05
JASWANT SINGH, FEB 3, 2004

As the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government got into election mode, what was essentially a vote-on-account (setting aside funds to meet essential expenditure for the first four months of 2004-05) was used by Finance Minister Jaswant Singh to extend the Antyodaya Anna Yojana to more BPL families, raise free baggage allowance for international travellers to Rs 25,000 from Rs 12,000, and commit to extend the tax exemption on listed equities.



Chidambaram leaves to present the Budget on February 28, 2013. Renuka Puri (Above right) Jaswant Singh ahead of the Interim Budget on February 3, 2004. Reuters Archive



could be raised to Rs 2 lakh, or even higher.

2 Could the favourable treatment to stock market investors go, given the perception that they have made hay during the last two-three years, even as the rest of the economy hasn't done too well?

Currently, there is no tax on capital gains from sale of equity shares or equity mutual fund units, when such sales are after 12 months of their purchase/investment. If sale happens within 12 months of purchase/investment, the capital gain from it is termed "short-term", and taxed at a flat 15.45% (15% basic rate plus 3% education cess on it). Capital gains arising after 12 months is considered "long-term", and is not taxed. But the definition of "long term" could be extended to 24 months (as in the case of capital gains from sale of immovable property such as land, building or house) or 36 months (as in jewellery or debt-oriented mutual fund units). Also, the tax rates themselves can go up. At present, long-term capital gains arising from assets other than equity shares and equity

mutual fund units is higher at 20.6% (20% basic plus 3% education cess on this rate). In their case, short-term capital gains, too, is added to income and taxed at the applicable slab.

3 Could favourable tax treatment on company dividends end, since the recipients of dividend income are mostly promoters and investors who are believed to be better off than ordinary salaried folk?

Dividends up to an annual amount of Rs 10 lakh received from domestic companies are now exempt from tax. Even on dividend income above Rs 10 lakh, the tax rate on the extra amount is only 10.3% (10% plus 3% cess). That would seem unfair when regular salary income of even Rs 5-10 lakh a year attracts 20.6% tax (20% basic plus 3% cess) for that slab, with the marginal rate at 30.9% beyond Rs 10 lakh. But then, it is ar-

gued that dividends also get taxed at the time when companies declare, distribute or pay these to shareholders. The dividend distribution tax (DDT) is levied at 20.36%, after adding surcharge and education cess to a basic rate of 15%. One way to address this supposed double taxation is to scrap the DDT, which ultimately also acts as a disincentive for companies to declare dividends.

Dividends can, instead, be taxed solely in the hands of shareholders/investors and at rates corresponding to their income slabs. It would be interesting to see if the Budget attempts this.

4 In his 2015-16 Budget speech, the Finance Minister had proposed reducing the rate of corporate tax from 30% to 25% over a four-year period. Is a cut in corporate tax likely?

There is a case for it today, especially with

the Donald Trump administration slashing the tax on corporate profits from 35% to 21% beginning this year. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his 2015-16 Budget speech had proposed reducing the rate of corporate tax from 30% to 25% over a four-year period, conceding that the existing level was higher than that in other major economies, "making our domestic industry uncompetitive". The basic corporate tax rate has since been brought down to 25% for companies with annual turnover below Rs 50 crore. But even for them, the effective rate after adding 12% surcharge and 3% education cess comes to 28.84%. For domestic companies with turnover more than Rs 50 crore, the basic tax rate is 30% (effective 34.608%); for foreign firms it is 40% (43.26% with a 5% surcharge and 3% cess).

But slashing the corporate income-tax rate is politically tricky, especially in an election year, when no ruling party would want to be seen as "pro-corporate". One way out could be to end all exemptions, deductions and concessions. Finance Ministry data show the effective tax rate paid by companies with pre-tax profits of more than Rs 500 crore

during 2015-16 averaged only 25.90%. This was far lower than the statutory rates of 30-40%. If the Budget does away with all tax breaks — which can be politically marketed as putting a stop to corporate subsidies availed mostly by larger firms — the basic rate can be brought down to 25%. That is close to the current effective rate for big companies.

5 With the cost of imported crude and the interest rates on 10-year government borrowings both rising, will deficit targets be met? Does it matter if they aren't?

The Centre's fiscal deficit — the gap between its revenues and expenditures, to be filled through borrowings — has been budgeted at 3.2% of GDP for 2017-18, and is supposed to be reduced to 3% in the Budget. Adherence to deficit targets may not have mattered a year ago, when interest rates and inflationary pressures were low. But in the last six months, the average cost of crude imported by Indian oil refiners has jumped from about \$ 48 to \$ 65 a barrel, while interest rates (yields) on 10-year government borrowings (bonds) have climbed from roughly 6.5% to 7.5%. Also, global interest rates are rising — 10-year US Treasury bond yields have gone up from 2-2.1% to over 2.7% since early-September — with central banks in advanced economies withdrawing monetary stimulus measures that were put in place after the 2008 financial crisis.

The "normalisation" of monetary policies is happening much faster than expected, in response to surging oil prices and a synchronised global economic recovery. Higher global interest rates can potentially impact capital flows into India. That threat is magnified in the event of fiscal slippages, which call for increased government borrowings. The resultant higher bond yields will eventually lead to higher interest rates for Indian firms and households as well.

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STARTING 9 AM

Budget news and analysis with senior editors of The Indian Express, including a real-time breaking down of what the Budget proposals mean for you and for the Indian economy. Also, the political message of the Budget.

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CSDS MOOD OF THE NATION SURVEY, 2018 PART 2

Crop prices biggest concern for farmers

THE CURRENT crisis in India's farm sector is perhaps the worst in the last 15-odd years. The Lokniti-CSDS survey (*Part 1* was published on Wednesday) has a separate section on farmers' issues, intended to throw light on their concerns and problems.

One in every four farmer respondents across all regions of the country said low prices of crops was their most pressing problem. Only a little over a third of all farmers (37%) reported satisfaction with the rates of crops set by the government — nearly three farmers out of every five (58%), on the other hand, reported significant levels of dissatisfaction with the rates. Only 27% of farmers said they sold their produce to the government purchase centre; nearly double that percentage — or half of all farmers — said they sold it to middlemen.

A majority (53%) of farmers said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government had done a poor job in addressing their concerns. However, the percentage of farmers who said the central government had done a good job was not insignificant either (41%). Interestingly — and in what could be seen as a straw in the developing political wind — an equal percentage of farmers across the country identified the BJP and the Congress as the party that takes care of farmers the most (22% each). However, an exactly equal percentage of farmers said that no party, in fact, took care of their interests, a finding that was in sync with the larger narrative of widespread disenchantment and unhappiness within the farming community.

The agrarian distress was underlined by the finding that as many as 64% of farmers would like to leave agriculture and move to a city if they were offered a job there. This percentage was slightly higher than the 62% that a State of Indian Farmers Survey reported in 2013 for the same question. However, the big difference from the 2013 survey was that as many as 60% of farmer respondents in the current survey said they would not like their children to take up farming as the source of livelihood — this was only 36% in 2013.

The survey contains findings on deprivation that indicate that despite relatively high levels of economic growth in the last two decades, India continues to suffer from hunger, undernutrition and lack of access to medical treatment when needed. The data show that in the last one year, due to financial constraints or lack of

resources, about one in every 10 Indians was forced to cut down on a food item or two in their meals "often", and 8% of Indians were often unable to buy medicines or seek medical treatment. Every 25th Indian (4%) often went without eating for the entire day.

Combining the categories of 'often', 'sometimes', and 'rarely' into 'having happened', the survey found that every second person (52%) had consumed less than their usual intake on at least one occasion during the last one year due to financial constraints. Over two-fifths (43%) did not buy medicine when needed at least once, over a third (36%) had skipped a meal at least once, and more than a quarter (28%) had gone without eating the whole day at least once.

The marginalised communities are especially susceptible to this kind of hardship. Nearly two out of three Dalits had to cut an item in their meal at least once during the last year, and about two in five Dalits, lower OBCs and Adivasis were forced to skip a full meal at least once. Almost half of all Dalits, Adivasis, and Muslims were not able to buy medicines due to shortage of money at least once. These figures are worse among the poorest in all these communities.

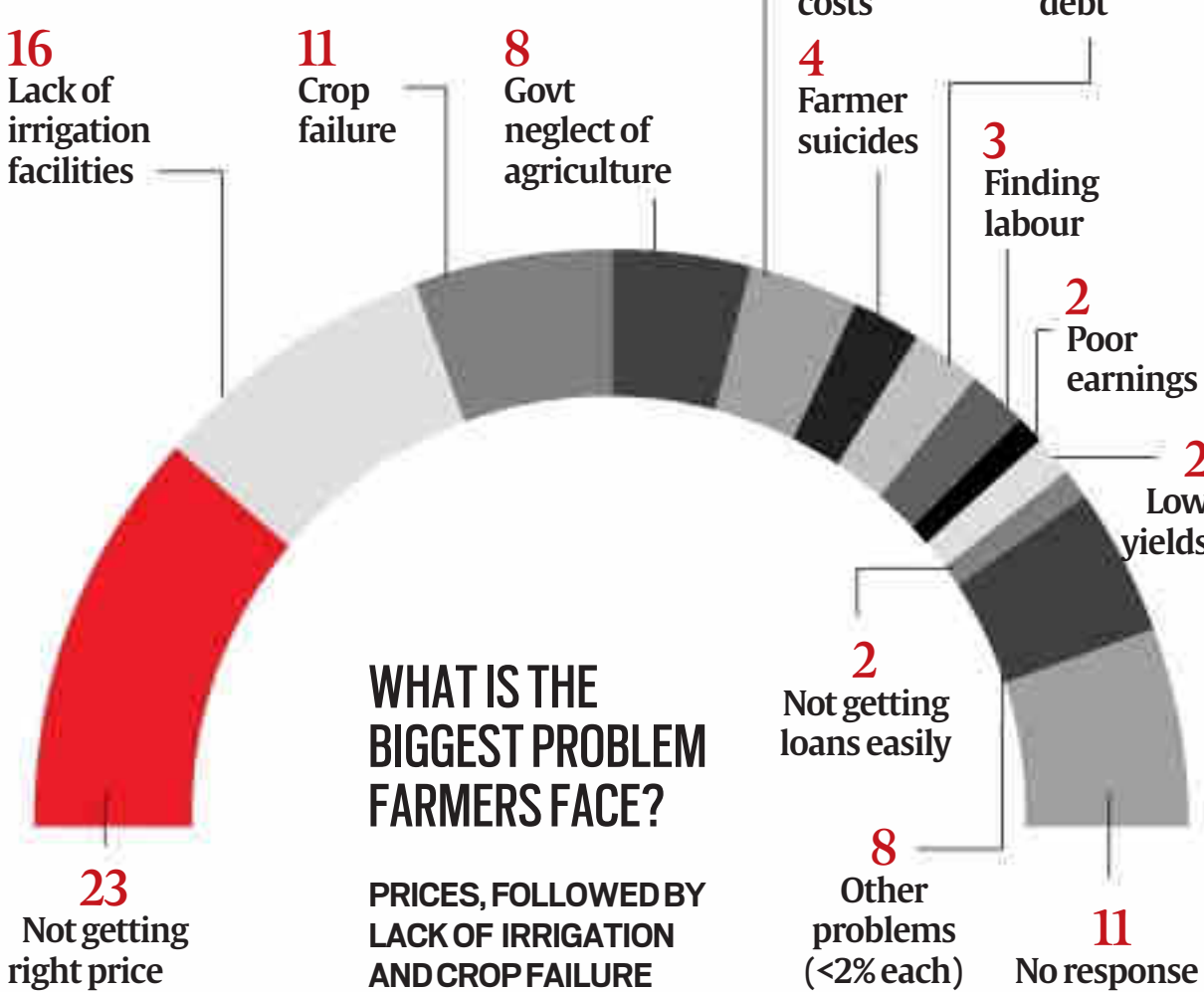
Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu reported above national average deprivation. In Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, 55% of respondents reported not eating the whole day at least once due to financial constraints. Medical deprivation was the highest in Odisha — 64% reported that at least once in the last year they had been unable to buy medicines or seek medical treatment when needed.

ANANYA SINGH, ANKITA BARTHWAL, ASMITA AASAAVARI, SANJAY KUMAR, SHREYAS SARDESAI (THE AUTHORS ARE WITH LOKNITI-CSDS) REPORT CONCLUDED

METHODOLOGY: Survey conducted between January 7 and January 20 among 14,336 respondents in 19 states. The survey was directed by Sanjay Kumar, Suhas Palshikar and Sandeep Shastri of Lokniti. Earlier surveys quoted were carried out by Lokniti-CSDS in those years. All comparisons are with the same set of 19 states in which the 2018 survey was conducted.

FARM SECTOR

All responses are of farmers', unless stated otherwise



FARMING IS NOT A DESIRED OCCUPATION

	Would move to city if given a job	Don't want children to take up farming
2007	—	53
2013	62	36
2018	64	60

TO WHOM DO FARMERS SELL PRODUCE?



OPINION OF GOVT-DECIDED CROP RATES



OPINION OF THE MODI GOVT'S HANDLING OF FARMERS' ISSUES

	Good job	Bad job	No response
Farmers	41	53	6
Non-farmers	43	46	11

WHICH PARTY CARES THE MOST ABOUT FARMERS?

	BJP	Cong	Other parties	No party	No response
All farmers	22	22	24	22	10
Landed farmers	26	22	22	21	9
Landless farmers	11	21	30	26	12



MEASURING DEPRIVATION

CUTTING MEALS, MISSING THEM ENTIRELY

How often in the past 1 year, due to financial constraints, have you...

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	No response
Cut an item or two	10	24	18	45	2
Skipped a full meal	4	16	16	62	2
Not eaten all day	4	11	13	70	3
Gone without medicine/treatment	8	18	17	54	3

WHO IS THE MOST DEPRIVED IN INDIA?

Due to financial constraints, have you, in the past 1 year, at least once...

	Cut an item or two	Skipped full meal	Not eaten all day	Gone without medicine/treatment
All	52	36	28	43
Rural poor	65	45	35	55
Rural women	57	39	31	48
Hindu Dalits	64	44	33	52
Hindu Lower OBCs	57	40	30	45
Hindu Adivasis	57	39	35	50
Muslims	55	36	27	45
Christians	63	53	33	53

Note: Categories of 'Often', 'Sometimes', 'Rarely' have been combined

All figures in all tables are in per cent

TOPOF THE WORLD



Tariq Ramadan

FRANCE
Oxford prof held on rape charges

Paris: Tariq Ramadan, a professor of Islamic studies at the University of Oxford, has been taken into custody following accusations of rape, a judicial source said Wednesday. The source said a preliminary investigation was opened after two complaints were filed against Ramadan. He took a leave of absence in November after two women filed complaints in France alleging rape. He has denied the allegations and filed a complaint for slander.

AFGHANISTAN
Earthquake kills child

Kabul: A 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan Wednesday, shaking large parts of the region and killing a child and injuring several people in neighbouring Pakistan. The quake, which rattled buildings in the Afghan capital and was also felt in parts of India, struck 270 km northeast of Kabul in the Hindu Kush mountains, at a depth of 180 km, the European Mediterranean Seismological Centre said. A girl was killed when roofs of mud-walled houses collapsed in Pakistan's Baluchistan.

US

Train carrying lawmakers hits truck, 1 dead

Washington: A chartered train carrying dozens of GOP lawmakers to a Republican policy retreat in West Virginia struck a garbage truck in a rural Virginia town on Wednesday. No lawmakers or aides were reported injured, but the White House said one person was killed and another was seriously injured. Lawmakers said the fatality appeared to be someone who was in the truck. One lawmaker who was aboard the train, Rep Tom Cole, said the vehicle had been ripped in half and said he saw a person wrapped in tarp.

GERMANY
AfD leader explains conversion

Berlin: A member of far-right and anti-Muslim Alternative for Germany party (AfD), who recently converted to Islam, has said he did so in protest at what he sees as the "moral decline" of the Protestant church. Arthur Wagner, 48, until recently a leading party member in the state of Brandenburg, told the Bild newspaper his decision was in part sparked by the church's acceptance of same-sex marriage and the presence of priests at gay pride marches. "One of the reasons (for the conversion) is tied to changes that have taken place in the church, which no longer reflects my values."

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 31

President Donald Trump used his first State of the Union address Tuesday to appeal for bipartisanship on issues like immigration while pledging to tackle the IS and a nuclear-armed North Korea. He laid out a four-pillar immigration plan, one of the major debates that loomed over his first year in office, and sought the backing of the Congress for a merit-based immigration system that admits skilled people, a proposal that could benefit technology professionals from countries like India. Trump outlined a plan that would allow up to 1.8 million undocumented immigrants to remain while funding a border wall with Mexico, ending the visa lottery



Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

Egyptian opposition calls for poll boycott

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CAIRO, JANUARY 31

OPPOSITION PARTIES in Egypt have called for a boycott of the March presidential election in which incumbent Abdel Fattah al-Sisi looks set to romp to victory. Branding the poll a "charade", a coalition of eight parties and 150 public figures announced a "stay at home" campaign ahead of voting on March 26-28. "No to participation in this charade," said Hamdeen Sabbahi, a presidential candidate in 2012 and 2014. At a news conference by the coalition, founded in December and describing itself as a democratic civic movement, Sabbahi asked: "How can we speak of an election when there is no guarantee of a free vote?" Sabbahi accused President Sisi's regime of having "led the country into a deadlock because of his arrogance and his desire to suppress any contrary opinion". Before becoming president in 2013, Sisi led the military in ousting the North African country's first freely elected leader, the Islamist Mohamed Morsi. The next year Sisi stormed to victory in the presidential election after security forces crushed all his Islamist and liberal opponents and sent hundreds of them to prison.

system and reforming family immigration rules. In one of the longest State of the Union speeches, the 71-year-old Trump heralded the economic successes of his administration, including a soaring stock market and low unemployment. While keeping mum on the probe into his election campaign's ties to Russia, Trump appealed to the Democrats and Republicans to look past deep national divisions. Trump said it was not enough to come together only in times of tragedy. "Tonight, I call upon all of us to set aside our differences, to seek out common ground, and to summon the unity we need to deliver for the people we were elected to serve. "I am extending an open hand to work with members of both parties — Democrats and Republicans — to protect our citizens of every

background, colour, religion, and creed," Trump said as First Lady Melania Trump and other dignitaries watched. Unlike his "American carnage" inaugural speech of just a year ago, Trump said his administration is "building a safe, strong and proud America". "This is our new American moment. There has never been a better time to start living the American Dream." Unemployment claims have hit a 45-year low, the president said, adding small business confidence is at an all-time high. The stock market has smashed one record after another, gaining \$8 trillion in value, Trump, who is facing historically low approval ratings, said. Trump's overall job approval number nationwide was never over 50 per cent in Gallup polling at any point in 2017, CNN reported. **PTI**

OTHER KEY POINTS

- Warned North Korea's "reckless pursuit" of nuclear missile could threaten American cities and said he will not "repeat the mistakes" of past administrations that got the US into "dangerous position"
- Identified China and Russia as "rivals" challenging America's interests, economy and values
- Underlined much more work was to be done to defeat IS while pledging to continue the fight until it is defeated



ON AFGHANISTAN, Trump said the American forces in the country have new rules of engagement. "Along with their heroic Afghan partners, our military is no longer undermined by artificial timelines...."

Yemeni separatists capture Aden, government confined to palace

MUHAMMED MUKHASHAF
ADEN, JANUARY 31

SOUTHERN YEMENI separatists took control of the port city of Aden after two days of fighting, residents said on Tuesday, confining the internationally recognised government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to the presidential palace. Fighting between southern separatists, backed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), against forces loyal to Saudi-based president Hadi, risk crippling their once united campaign against the Iran-aligned Houthi movement in Yemen's north. The UAE is a major component of a Saudi-led military coalition of Arab states that has supported Hadi's government since the Houthis seized much of the country, including the capital Sanaa, three years ago. Hadi's government operates out of Aden, while he lives in Saudi Arabia. Residents said forces loyal to



Southern Yemeni separatist fighters in Aden. Reuters

the Southern Transitional Council (STC), formed last year to push for the revival of the former independent state of South Yemen, seized the last stronghold of Hadi's Presidential Protection Forces in the Dar Saad area of northern Aden, in battles that at times involved heavy artillery and tank fire.

Activists shared photos on social media of the flag of the former independent Southern Yemen state flying over the base's gate. Southern Yemen was united with Northern Yemen in 1990. Aden residents said STC fighters had earlier overrun Presidential Protection forces

outposts in central Aden's Crater and Tawahi districts. They stopped outside the al-Maasheeq palace, where Prime Minister Ahmed bin Daghr's cabinet is based, they said. Witnesses said hundreds of people danced and sang as they celebrated the STC victory with fireworks that lit the night skies over Aden. The crowd chanted slogans demanding restoration of the southern state. Mosques also mixed their calls for prayers with victory claims in Crater, residents said. The government-run Saba news agency put the death toll in two days of fighting at 16 and the number of wounded at 141. An official at the International Committee of the Red Cross said at least 36 were killed. The fighting began on Sunday after a deadline set last week by the STC for Hadi to dismiss bin Daghr's government, which the STC accused of corruption and mismanagement. The government denies the allegation. **REUTERS**

UK government to fund new Sikh soldiers war memorial in London

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, JANUARY 31

THE UK government has agreed to support and fund a national memorial to honour the sacrifices and contribution of Sikh soldiers who fought for Britain and its allies during the two World Wars. More than 83,000 turbaned Sikh soldiers gave their lives and more than 100,000 were injured during the wars. "We are indebted to all those servicemen who volunteered to serve and fought to defend the freedoms we enjoy today," said UK communities secretary Sajid Javid as he announced government backing

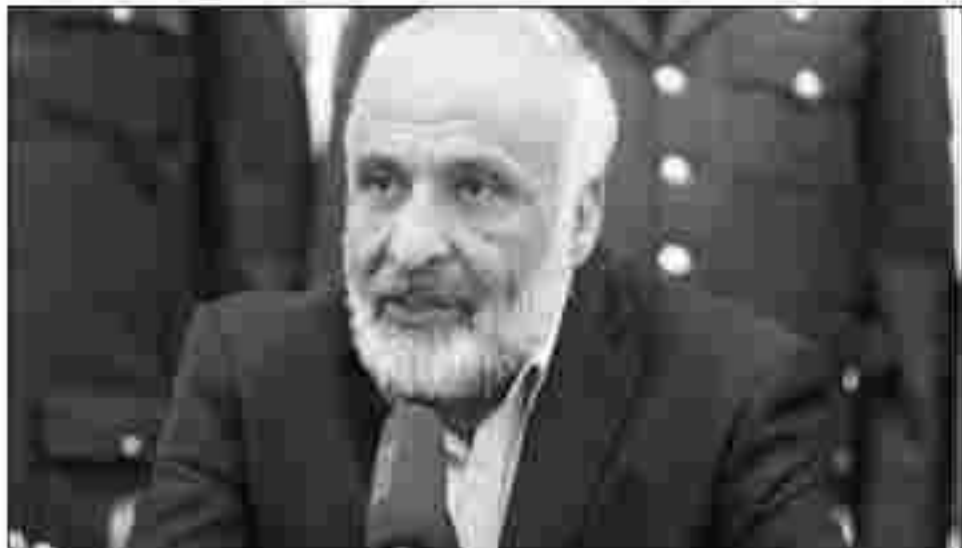
for the new memorial in London. "A Sikh war memorial in our nation's capital will honour their sacrifice and ensure that this part of our shared history is never forgotten. So, I'm delighted to get behind this campaign and ensure its success," he said. The campaign for a new Sikh war memorial was led by Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Britain's first turbaned Sikh MP, who now has the support of of Housing, Communities and Local Government Ministry to help set up a Working Group to find a location. Once an appropriate site has been identified and detailed plans agreed, the min-

istry has agreed to provide funding towards the project. "The part played by Sikh servicemen really stands out - a contribution that is all the more remarkable when you consider that these brave men travelled thousands of miles to fight for a country that wasn't their own," said Javid. Over 27,000 people had signed an online petition by Dhesi, the Labour MP who submitted an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons. "Given that the Sikh community, which is very proud of its military traditions, there has been a demand for more than a decade for a Sikh memorial in a prime central location in London," Dhesi said. **PTI**

Lahore High Court issues notices to Nawaz Sharif, aides on contempt petition

M ZULQERNAIN
LAHORE, JANUARY 31

A TOP COURT in Pakistan Wednesday issued notices to ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter, son-in-law and two ministers for allegedly committing contempt of court during a rally in Punjab province last week. The Lahore High Court here issued notices to the federal government, Election Commission of Pakistan and the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) to submit their replies in this regard by February 14. Petitioner Amina Malik told the court that Sharif, his daughter Maryam, son-in-law Capt



Masoom Stanikzai at a press conference in Kabul. AP

Amid tensions over Taliban safe havens, Afghanistan spy chief visits Pakistan

SAAD SAYEED
ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 31

AFGHANISTAN'S INTELLIGENCE chief visited Pakistan on Wednesday at a time when tension between the neighbours is simmering over accusations that Pakistan offers a safe haven for Taliban militants. The visit comes amid anger in Afghanistan over an attack on a luxury hotel and a car bomb in the capital, Kabul, that killed over 120 people, which the government has blamed on Haqqani network militants believed to operate out of Pakistan. The Afghan team will present documentary evidence and phone tap information linking Pakistan-based individuals and groups with the Kabul attacks, an Afghan military source said. The delegation includes Masoom Stanekzai, head of the National Directorate for Security intelligence agency, and Afghan Interior Minister Wais Barmak, officials said. "The Afghan government had requested that a high-level delegation would like to visit Pakistan with a message from the Afghan president," Pakistan's foreign office spokesman, Mohammad Faisal, said in a Twitter message. On Saturday, a vehicle painted as an ambulance exploded in a Taliban suicide attack in one of the most well-protected parts of Kabul, killing more than 100 people and wounding at least 235. It followed a Taliban-claimed attack a week earlier that

killed more than 20 people in a siege of the city's Intercontinental Hotel. Ties between the US and Pakistan are brittle after Washington announced plans to suspend up to roughly \$2 billion in security assistance. President Donald Trump tweeted Pakistan had rewarded past aid with "nothing but lies & deceit". Pakistan, which denies the accusations it allows safe havens for militants, condemned Saturday's attack and accused Washington of betrayal. It is widely blamed in Kabul for the attacks and a senior Afghanist cleric criticised a fatwa against suicide attacks issued by Pakistani religious authorities for not explicitly declaring attacks in Afghanistan haram, or unlawful for Muslims. Pakistan's embassy in Kabul rejected the criticism, saying in a statement the fatwa was a message against violence and terrorism anywhere. In November, Pakistan handed to Afghanistan 27 people suspected of belonging to the Afghan Taliban and Haqqani network, a spokesman for the country's foreign office said. A delegation from Islamabad is to visit Afghanistan on Feb 3, Pakistan's embassy in Kabul said. "The delegation, led by the foreign secretary, will hold constructive and meaningful discussions with Afghanistan on all issues including counter-terrorism, peace and reconciliation and repatriation of refugees," the embassy said in a statement. **REUTERS**

MYRIAD FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO WEIGHT GAIN

Hormones may be to blame for binge eating at night, says new study

RONI CARYN RABIN
NEW YORK, JANUARY 31

MOST DIETERS know the hard truth: Sticking to a weight loss regimen gets more difficult as the day wears on. But while those who give in to food cravings and binge at night may blame flagging willpower, a new study suggests the problem could lie in the complex orchestra of hormones that drive hunger and signal feelings of satiety, or fullness. The small study of 32 obese men and women, half of whom had a habit of binge eating, suggests that satiety hormones may be lower during the evening hours, while hunger hormones rise toward nightfall and may be

stoked even higher by stressful situations. Overweight binge eaters may be particularly susceptible to the influence of fluctuations in these appetite-regulating hormones. "There's more opportunity to eat in the evening, but this study is showing that hormonal responses are setting them up to do this," said Susan Carnell, an assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioural sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine who was a first author of the study along with Charlotte Grillot of Florida State University. It's not clear whether these hormonal patterns precede and cause the binge eating behaviours or are conditioned by an individual's eating habits, Carnell said. But either way, "you



Sticking to a weight loss regimen gets more difficult as the day wears on. NYT

can get stuck in the cycle." The study is an important reminder that myriad factors contribute to weight gain, and that shaming and blaming people for their weight problems is inappropriate, said Kelly Costello Allison, director of the Centre for Weight and Eating Disorders at the University of Pennsylvania, who was not involved in the new research. "There is so much bias and judgment about people who are overweight, that it's their fault or they're lazy or just don't have enough willpower," Allison said. "The bottom line is that people are wired in different ways, and some of that does really depend on these biological markers." The new findings were published in the International

Journal of Obesity in December. They build on earlier work, including a 2013 Harvard study of normal-weight individuals that found circadian rhythms play a role in regulating appetite, and that hunger peaks in the evening and appetite is, paradoxically, at its lowest in the morning even though people have not eaten all night. That research helped explain why so many people skip breakfast, even as evidence mounts that consuming most of one's calories at the beginning of the day is optimal for weight control and a healthy metabolism. Evening hunger "may have been an evolutionary adaptation that helped us get through the night," said Satchidananda Panda of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. **NYT**

VIDHARBHA IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA UNDERTAKING)

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 09 FOR 2017-18 (Second Call)

Main Portal:-<https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Online electronic bids in B-1 form for below mentioned work are invited by Executive Engineer, Ambhora Lift irrigation Division, Bhiwapur Tah- Bhiwapur Distr- Nagpur Phone No. (07106) 232018 from contractors registered in appropriate class with Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra Tender Documents are available for Online bid preparation & Submission on above website from Dt. 01/02/2018 to Dt. 09/02/2018

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in (Amount in Lakhs)	Earnest Money in (Amount in Lakhs)	Time Limit for completion (Months)	Cost of Blank tender form (Rs.)	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	
01	Construction of Earthwork & Structures on Kargaon Minor-1 at offtaking @ R.D. 9570m of Mokhabardi Lift Irrigation Scheme	70.70	0.71	06 Months (Including monsoon)	1000/-+18% GST (Non-Refundable)	Class IV A & Above

1) Additional details regarding 'e' tendering are available in Tender Document on above portal. If any assistance is required regarding e-Tendering (Upload & Download) Please contact NIC E-procurement Toll Free Number (24x7) 1800 3070 2232

2) Changes if any will be uploaded on above website only.

3) All rights are reserved to reject any or all tender without assigning any reason by the competent authority of VIDC, Nagpur.

sd/-

Executive Engineer,
Ambhora Lift Irrigation Division
Bhiwapur (Tas.) Dist, Nagpur

डी.जी.आय.पी.आर. २०१७/२०१८/५७७१

GOVT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
HEADQUARTER 25 SECTOR ASSAM RIFLES, C/O 99 APO

Tender Notice No. ACR/2017-18/31

Dated : 13 Jan 2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
ADVERTISED TENDER ENQUIRY

1. For and on behalf of the President of India, the Directorate General Assam Rifles, Shillong invites online tenders under TWO BIDS SYSTEM (Technical & Financial Bid) from Assam Rifles approved contractors and enlisted contractors working with other Central Government department / organizations meeting eligibility criteria for selection of contractor, for execution of the following work as given in the schedule to tender:-

Ser No	Description of stores required	Approximate cost (in Lakhs)	Earnest money (in Rs)	Tender Fee (in Rs)
(a)	PROVN OF ENHANCEMENT OF LIFE OF BLDGS NO. P/85, P/86, P/87, P/69, P/94, P/95 AND P/97 OR MD ACCN OF HQ 25 SECT AT JORHAT (ASSAM)	13.75	28,000/-	1,000/-

Date of uploading in CPP Portal : 13 Jan 2018

Last date and time of receipt of online tender : 07 Feb 2018 at 1200 hrs.

Date and time of online tender opening : 08 Feb 2018 at 1230 hrs.

Earnest Money : **Rs.28,000.00** (Rupees twenty eight thousand only) through FDR / Bankers Cheque / Bank guarantee is required to submitted in favour of DG Assam Rifles, Shillong-10

Tender Cost : **Rs.1,000/-** (Rupees one thousand only) through demand draft is required to be submitted in favour of DIGAR HQ 25 Sector Assam Rifles, payable at Jorhat.

2. The lump sum amount to be quoted for the entire work by the tenderers shall include all taxes including GST and labour cess as applicable at the time of awarding of contract and during the execution of work till completion.

3. The Director General Assam Rifles as the CFA reserves the right to reject or accept any application/tender without assigning any reasons.

4. Any inquiries by the tenderer may be obtained from the undersigned on any working day from **0830 hours to 1430 hours**. This tender notice is also available on the Assam Rifles website at www.assamrifles.gov.in.

Note:- The complete tender documents can be accessed & downloaded from CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> Please check regularly the website for any changes/modification / amendment in the Tender Enquiry. This TE is being issued with no financial commitment and DGAR reserves the right to change or vary any part thereof at any stage. He also reserves the right to withdraw the TE, should it become necessary at any stage.

Those filling in the tender entries are advised to ensure that their tenders are complete in all respects, all documents have been filled in and all supporting documents are uploaded only in CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Incomplete tender enquiry is liable to be rejected.

GOVT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS HEADQUARTER 25 SECTOR ASSAM RIFLES, C/O 99 APO

Tender Notice No. ACR/2017-18/53

Dated : 12 Jan 2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
ADVERTISED TENDER ENQUIRY

1. For and on behalf of the President of India, the Directorate General Assam Rifles, Shillong invites online tenders under TWO BIDS SYSTEM (Technical & Financial Bid) from Assam Rifles approved contractors and enlisted contractors working with other Central Government department / organizations meeting eligibility criteria for selection of contractor, for execution of the following work as given in the schedule to tender:-

Ser No	Description of stores required	Approximate cost (in Lakhs)	Earnest money (in Rs)	Tender Fee (in Rs)
(a)	PROVN OF ENHANCEMENT OF LIFE OF CERTAIN EXISTING TYPE-II MD ACCN WHICH INCLUDES REPAIR OF ROOF, FLOORING, PLINTH PROTECTION, REPLACEMENT OF GLASS PANES AND PERIODICAL SERVICES OF AR BN AT KHONSA (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)	19.65	40,000/-	1,000/-

Date of uploading in CPP Portal : 12 Jan 2018

Last date and time of receipt of online tender : 05 Feb 2018 at 1200 hrs.

Date and time of online tender opening : 06 Feb 2018 at 1230 hrs.

Earnest Money : **Rs.40,000.00** (Rupees forty Thousand only) through FDR / Bankers Cheque / Bank guarantee is required to submitted in favour of DG Assam Rifles, Shillong-10

Tender Cost : **Rs.1,000/-** (Rupees one thousand only) through demand draft is required to be submitted in favour of DIGAR HQ 25 Sector Assam Rifles, payable at Jorhat.

2. The lump sum amount to be quoted for the entire work by the tenderers shall include all taxes including GST and labour cess as applicable at the time of awarding of contract and during the execution of work till completion.

3. The Director General Assam Rifles as the CFA reserves the right to reject or accept any application/tender without assigning any reasons.

4. Any inquiries by the tenderer may be obtained from the undersigned on any working day from 0830 hours to 1430 hours. This tender notice is also available on the Assam Rifles website at www.assamrifles.gov.in.

Note:- The complete tender documents can be accessed & downloaded from CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> Please check regularly the website for any changes/modification / amendment in the Tender Enquiry. This TE is being issued with no financial commitment and DGAR reserves the right to change or vary any part thereof at any stage. He also reserves the right to withdraw the TE, should it become necessary at any stage.

Those filling in the tender entries are advised to ensure that their tenders are complete in all respects, all documents have been filled in and all supporting documents are uploaded only in CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Incomplete tender enquiry is liable to be rejected.

TENDER NOTICE NO. 17/TS/FBD/2017-18 DATED: 25.01.2018

HARYANA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Shakti Bhawan, Panchkula, CIN: U40101HR1997SGC033683

Online Tenders are invited for Repairing of 2 No. 66 KV 1x1200 Sq. mm XLPE Power Cable of 66 KV A-2- Northern India line Near VXL Company on NH-2 at Faridabad damaged on dated 24.02.2017.

Estimated Cost including GST/Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 781967.00/15639.00

Last Date of Online Bid Submission : 12.02.2018 upto 13.00 hrs.

Details NIT and tender document is available at website: <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> , <https://www.hvnpn.org.in>.

Executive Engineer/TS Division,

HVPNL, Faridabad.

60663/HRY

HARYANA PWD (B&R)
PRESS NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Provincial Division No. 2, PWD B&R Br., Karnal invites the Bids from eligible bidders through online bids on the website: <http://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> for the work detailed in the table:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Last Date for Bid Preparation & Hash Submission
1.	Re-invited Construction extension of community Health Centre (Emergency & Physiotherapy Block) at Gharaunda in Karnal Distt. (Including PH and EI Services)	₹ 95.83 Lacs	₹ 1.92 Lacs/ ₹ 0.96 Lacs (Cont./Soc.)	25.01.2018 at 17.00 hrs. to 08.02.2018 upto 17.00 hrs.
2.	Providing and Laying of Interlocking Paver Block in Parking Area in Tehsil Building at Gharaunda in Karnal Distt.	₹ 17.30 Lacs	₹ 34600/- / ₹ 17300/- (Cont./Soc.)	25.01.2018 at 17.00 hrs. to 08.02.2018 upto 17.00 hrs.

Cost of Bid Document & E-tender Fee (to be paid only Online) is **Rs. 5,000/- Rs. 1000/-** (Non-refundable) For further details and E-tendering schedule visit website <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in>.

60670/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF SC/ST/OBC/MINORITY
B-BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from experienced and registered service providers to provide Security Services in KISS Delhi School. For details & tender form kindly refer to our website www.kissdelhi.ac.in/tender. Tender can be downloaded starting from **24/01/2018**. Last date for submission of tender in school is **05/02/2018** till **10:00 AM**. Tenders will be opened on **05/02/2018** at **2:00 PM**.

DIP/Shabdarth/3178/17-18

Government of NCT of Delhi
DEPARTMENT OF SC/ST/OBC/MINORITY
B-Block, Vikas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from experienced and registered manufacturer/wholesale dealers/distributors for supply of School & Hostel Furniture, School Uniform, Bedding items & Stationary items in KISS Delhi School. For details & tender form kindly refer to our website www.kissdelhi.ac.in/tender. Tender can be downloaded from website starting from **31/01/2018**. Last date for submission is **23/02/2018** till **10:00 AM**. Tenders will be opened on **23/02/2018** at **2:00 PM**.

DIP/Shabdarth/3179/17-18

**HARYANA TOURISM**

e-TENDER NOTICE

On-line Bids are hereby Invited on behalf of the Managing Director, Haryana Tourism Corporation, Chandigarh for the works mentioned below:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Date of Downloading of e-Tender Documents	Date of Submission of e-Tenders	Date for Physical Submission of EMD, Tender Fees and Eligibility Documents	Date of Opening of Technical Bids (On-line)
1.	Renovation of Castle Block at Dabchick T/C, Hodel.	Start Date: 30.01.2018 End Date: 21.02.2018 (5.00 P.M.) Estimated Cost: Rs. 26.20 Lacs. EMD: Rs. 52,400/- Time Limit: Three Months.	Start Date: 30.01.2018 End Date: 21.02.2018 (5.00 P.M.)	Start Date: 22.02.2018 from 9.00 A.M. End Date: 22.02.2018 upto 12.00 P.M. (Noon)	Date: 22.02.2018 at 14.00 P.M.
2.	Work of Interior and Exterior Paint of Porta Cabin at Lake view Huts, Hermitage Huts (Faridabad)	Start Date: 30.01.2018 End Date: 21.02.2018 (5.00 P.M.) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4.75 Lacs. EMD: Rs. 9500/- Time Limit: 15 Days	Start Date: 30.01.2018 End Date: 21.02.2018 (5.00 P.M.)	Start Date: 22.02.2018 from 9.00 A.M. End Date: 22.02.2018 upto 12.00 P.M. (Noon)	Date: 22.02.2018 at 14.00 P.M.

1. The cost of tender documents and Earnest Money shall be deposited in the form of Banker Cheque/Demand Draft/Call Deposit of any scheduled Bank payable at Chandigarh/Faridabad in favour of Executive Engineer, HTC, Chandigarh/Faridabad which is valid for 180 days.

2. As the Bids are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) at the earliest.

3. Bid Documents can be downloaded from the website of Haryana Government: <http://etenders.hry.nic.in>. Also visit our website www.haryanatourism.gov.in.

Issued by Director Tourism, Haryana

60675/HRY

GOVT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
HEADQUARTER 25 SECTOR ASSAM RIFLES, C/O 99 APO

Tender Notice No. ACR/2017-18/01

Dated : 11 Jan 2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
ADVERTISED TENDER ENQUIRY

1. For and on behalf of the President of India, the Directorate General Assam Rifles, Shillong invites online tenders under TWO BIDS SYSTEM (Technical & Financial Bid) from Assam Rifles approved contractors and enlisted contractors working with other Central Government department / organizations meeting eligibility criteria for selection of contractor, for execution of the following work as given in the schedule to tender:-

Ser No	Description of stores required	Approximate cost (in Lakhs)	Earnest money (in Rs)	Tender Fee (in Rs)
(a)	PROVISION OF ENHANCEMENT OF LIFE OF CERTAIN EXISTING NON RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION OF AR BN AT JAIRAMPUR (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)	12.69	26,000/-	1,000/-

Date of uploading in CPP Portal : 11 Jan 2018

Last date and time of receipt of online tender : 03 Feb 2018 at 1200 hrs.

Date and time of online tender opening : 05 Feb 2018 at 1230 hrs.

Earnest Money : **Rs. 26,000.00** (Rupees twenty six thousand only) through FDR / Bankers Cheque / Bank guarantee is required to submitted in favour of DG Assam Rifles, Shillong-10

Tender Cost : **Rs.1,000/-** (Rupees one thousand only) through demand draft is required to be submitted in favour of DIGAR HQ 25 Sector Assam Rifles, payable at Jorhat.

2. The lump sum amount to be quoted for the entire work by the tenderers shall include all taxes including GST and labour cess as applicable at the time of awarding of contract and during the execution of work till completion.

3. The Director General Assam Rifles as the CFA reserves the right to reject or accept any application/tender without assigning any reasons.

4. Any inquiries by the tenderer may be obtained from the undersigned on any working day from 0830 hours to 1430 hours. This tender notice is also available on the Assam Rifles website at www.assamrifles.gov.in.

Note:- The complete tender documents can be accessed & downloaded from CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> Please check regularly the website for any changes/modification / amendment in the Tender Enquiry. This TE is being issued with no financial commitment and DGAR reserves the right to change or vary any part thereof at any stage. He also reserves the right to withdraw the TE, should it become necessary at any stage.

Those filling in the tender entries are advised to ensure that their tenders are complete in all respects, all documents have been filled in and all supporting documents are uploaded only in CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Incomplete tender enquiry is liable to be rejected.

**NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**
NAVSARI CAMPUS NAVSARI - 396450

NIT for e-tender-NAU/DR./Sci.Instru. & Farm Machineries/03-2017-18

The Director of Research NAU invites online e-tender for purchase of 16 Scientific Instruments/Machineries. For detailed NIT please visit www.nau.in and www.nprocure.com. The last date of filling e-tender online is 21-02-2018 upto 18.00 hrs and submitting hard copy is 23-02-2018 upto 17.00 hrs.

Sd/-

Director of Research

Dt. 01-02-2018.

HSIIDC
Notice Inviting Tenders

Online Bids are invited from the Bidders having experience in executing similar nature of the following works:-

Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money (Rs. in lakh)	Time Limit/ Cost of Bid Document (Rs.) + e-Service Fee (Rs.)
Annual operations and maintenance of A/C Plant Set, DG Sets, Electric Control Panel & Water Booster Pumps 2x250 TR Central AC Plant of Water Supply at Udyog Minar Building, Udyog, Vihar, Ph-V, Gurugram.	13.45	27,000/-	12 Months (Twelve Months)/ 1,000/- + 1,000/-

Date and Time For Bid Preparation to Hash Submission : 06.02.2018 17.01 hrs. to 15.02.2018 17.00 hrs.

(1) The eligibility criteria have been defined in the Tender documents.

(2) For further details and e-Tendering schedule, visit website: <http://hsiidc.org.in/> <http://hsiidc.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in>.

**Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Dev. Corp. Ltd.**

Regd. Office: C -13 & 14, Sector-6, Panchkula, Ph: 0172-2590481-83
Fax: 0172-2590474, E-mail: info@hsiidc.org.in , Web Page: www.hsiidc.org.in
UV Gurugram Office: AGM(IA), HSIIDC, UV Gurugram, Ph. 0124-2398418
CIN: U29199HR1967SGC034545

60655/HRY.

Release through DIPR, Haryana.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders on the prescribed Tender Form are invited from Reputed and Financially Sound Transporters preferably doing same business in Districts for the period from 01.04.2018 to 31.03.2019 for the transportation of:-

1) Doorstep Delivery of Food-grains, Pulses, Sugar or any other Consumer Items to Fair Price Shops under TPDS or other Welfare Scheme in Sub Divisions falling in Districts Ambala, Bhiwani, Faridabad, Fatehabad, Jind, Hisar, Gurugram, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Mewat, Narnaul, Palwal, Panipat, Panchkula, Rewari, Rohtak, Jhajjar, Sirsa, Sonapat and Yamuna Nagar from FCI/ Agency/ CONFED Godowns. Transportation of Sugar from Sugar Mills where Sugar Mills Exists/ Situated/ Located in the District is directly supplied to the Doorstep of Fair Price Shop in concerned District.

2) Doorstep Delivery of Food-Grains to Anganwari Centres under SNP Scheme in the Sub Division in District Ambala, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Panipat, Panchkula, Rohtak, Jhajjar, Sonapat and Yamuna Nagar from FCI/ Agency/ CONFED Godowns.

3) Transportation of Sugar from Sugar Mill situated in District to various CONFED Wholesale Focal Points in the State.

4) Home Delivery of LPG Cylinders to Consumers from CONFED Gas Agency/ Godown at Bahadurgarh, Jind, Raipur Rani, Shahabad and Yamuna Nagar.

The prescribed Tender Form containing detailed terms and conditions can be had from District Manager, CONFED District Offices located at above District Headquarters on payment of Rs. 1000/- in DD/Cash. The Sealed Tender duly completed with requisite Earnest Money will be received upto 12.30 P.M. on 06.03.2018 by CONFED District Offices which shall be opened by the District Level Transport Committee under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner either on the same day at 03.00 P.M. or any other day which shall be informed by District Manager, CONFED District Office concerned in writing at the time of Submission of Tender. Tenderer shall be required to quote separate rates of Sub Division wise falling in the District. Separate Tender should be submitted by the tenderer for each Sub Division falling in the District. No tenderer is allowed to put up the Rates of Group A & B simultaneously.

For details, please visit 'Tender' Section on our website: www.confedhry.gov.in. The Tender Notice and Tender Documents are available on website.

In case, tender document is downloaded from website, the tenderer has to deposit the Cost of Document Rs. 1000/- in the shape of Demand Draft payable in favour of Concerned District Manager of CONFED. The tender shall not be considered without the cost of the tender documents. Conditional and Incomplete Tender shall not be accepted. Interested parties may remain present at the time of Opening of Tender for making negotiation if any. The undersigned reserve the right to cancel/reject all or any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

SANJEEV VERMA, IAS

Managing Director,
The Haryana State Federation of Consumers,
Co-operative Wholesale Stores Ltd. (CONFED),
Bays No. 19-20, Sector-2, Panchkula,
Phone No. 0172-2590033, 2590029.

60688/HRY.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL
E-mail: mechanicalskims@gmail.com
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE

Gist of e-NIT No. 46 of 2017-18 Dated 24.01.2018

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites online e-Bids in Two (02) cover system from **Original Manufacturers or their Authorized Distributors/Dealers/ Registered and Reputed Govt. Suppliers** having experience as detailed in the tender document for the following works:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)
1.	Supply of Spares of Medical Gas Pipe System for Manifold section at SKIMS, Soura.	12,55,813.00

The complete tender document is available at website: <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders/Tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online upto the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities & Terms and Conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale of Tender documents (Starting Date)	29.01.2018 at 11.00 hours onwards
ii)	Last date and time of downloading/ Sale of Tender Document (Ending Date)	05.02.2018 at 16.00 hours
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ clarification/Pre-Bid meet	06.02.2018 at 11.00 hours
iv)	Last Date & Time of Bid uploading	07.02.2018 upto 11.00 hours
v)	Date of Submission of hard copies (only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee)	09.02.2018 upto 16.00 hours
vi)	Date & Time of Commercial/ Technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	10.02.2018, 11.00 hours (or next convenient day)
vii)	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-II) opening	12.02.2018, 11.30 hours or next convenient Date
viii)	Cost of e-Bid Document	Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Hundred only)
ix)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR)	Rs. 25,200/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand & Two Hundred only)
x)	Completion Time	One Months from the date of issue of LOI or Allotment Order
xi)	Budget Head	M&E (4210-MH) For the Year 2017-18

No. SIMS 139 EX.403/17-2271-80-972-975D
Dated: 24.01.2018

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
Mechanical, SKIMS

NIFTY CLOSES AT 11,027.70

Dalal Street turns cautious on Budget eve; Sensex below 36K

Sensex remains negative for the major part of the session and loses 68.71 points

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 31

ANXIOUS INVESTORS kept away on the eve of the presentation of the Union Budget with the benchmark Sensex declining 69 points to end below the key 36,000-mark in see-saw trade on Wednesday. The market preferred to adopt a cautious stand for the second session in a row as participants were unwilling to expand their portfolios and looked to the Budget and US FOMC meet for further cues.

Anticipating a volatile session on Thursday, the 30-share Sensex remained in the negative zone for the major part of the session and lost 68.71 points, or 0.19 per cent to finish at 35,965.02. Intra-day, it shuttled between 35,818.41 and

The Sensex had retreated from its lifetime high by falling 249.52 points in the previous session

36,050.69. The index had retreated from its lifetime high by falling 249.52 points in the previous session. The broad-based NSE Nifty hit a low of 10,979.30 intra-day, before closing at 11,027.70, down 21.95 points, or 0.20 per cent.

The BSE Sensex has gained 1,908 points or 5.60 per cent, in January while the NSE Nifty also recorded a hefty rise of 497 points, or 4.71 per cent.

"Investors are awaiting the big budget day while the expectation for this budget is muted compared to what was anticipated over the last two years. The main requirement is to have a good balance between fiscal

discipline and growth reforms. Rural economy will be the key in the budget but infrastructure development and reforms are also likely to be highlighted. Some tinkering can be expected on corporate and individual taxation fronts," said Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services.

Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian has cautioned investors about the surging stock markets, stating, "we need to be very vigilant." The market is also agog with speculation that the government might change long-term capital gains norms

Jayant Manglik, President,

Religare Broking, said, "the benchmark indices edged lower for a second straight session tracking mixed Asian and European markets, as caution crept into the markets ahead of the US Federal Reserve meet and Union Budget at home. The government is likely to present a balanced budget, wherein more focus is expected on rural and infrastructure sectors. Traders and investors would keenly watch how it manages to restrict its fiscal deficit target and deliver on the rising expectations."

"We would see high volatility throughout the trading session. Thus, we would advise traders to remain hedged, while investors should use any dip as a buying opportunity after some healthy correction seen in the Smallcap and Midcap spaces in the last few days," he said.

IDBI Bank loss narrows, NPAs touch 24.72% in Q3

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 31

PUBLIC SECTOR IDBI Bank's net loss narrowed to Rs 1,524.31 crore in the third quarter of 2017-18 as against a net loss of Rs 2,254.96 crore in the October-December quarter of the previous fiscal. However, the bank's gross non-performing assets (NPA) amounted to Rs 50,621 crore (24.72 per cent of gross advances) during the quarter against Rs 35,245 crore (15.16 per cent) in the year-ago period. This means nearly a quarter of the bank's advances has turned into bad assets.

Total income fell to Rs 6,645.81 crore, from Rs 7,104.21 crore a year ago. Net NPAs, too, rose to 16.02 per cent of net advances, from 9.61 per cent in December 2016. As a result, the bank's provision for bad loan increased to Rs 3,649.82 crore as compared to Rs 3,135.53 crore. The bank is under the PCA framework of the RBI.

L&T profit jumps 53% in Dec quarter

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 31

RIDING ON better project execution and higher domestic orders, engineering giant Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has reported a 53 per cent jump in consolidated net profit for the December quarter at Rs 1,490 crore. Total income from operations grew 9.4 per cent to Rs 28,747.45 crore during the reporting period over the same period a year ago.

"This quarter was a welcome relief for us as performance was satisfactory on all fronts. Revenue recognition was mainly from our businesses like infrastructure, hydrocarbons, heavy engineering, financial services and developmental projects," Group chief financial officer R Shankar Raman said. The country has seen a slew of transformative reform measures in the last one year which are likely to yield medium to long term macro-economic gains, though accompanied by shorter term disruptions, the company said.

He said revenue grew by 9.4 per cent, but adjusting for excise duty subsumed in GST during the quarter, the growth was 10 per cent. Revenue from international business stood at Rs 10,110 crore, constituting 35 per cent of the total revenue. "During the past two quarters, we have witnessed a growth of around 8 per cent in revenue and this quarter we touched 10 per cent. At the beginning of the fiscal we had given a guidance of 12-14 per cent topline growth, which we later revised to a flat growth. We would still like to maintain a growth rate which we had last fiscal," Raman said.

During the quarter, the company won fresh orders worth Rs 48,130 crore, registering a growth of 38 per cent. International orders of Rs 8,835 crore constituted 18 per cent of the total order inflows, as against 34 per cent in the same period previous year. "Domestic order intake grew 70 per cent this quarter. These were the orders that were waiting to be awarded and we are happy to bag them that helped bump up our domestic order inflow," he said.

I-T dept slaps ₹436.8-crore fine on NDTV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

NEW DELHI Television Ltd (NDTV) on Wednesday said income tax department has levied a penalty of Rs 436.80 crore on the company for assessment year 2009-10.

The company on Wednesday received an order under section 271 (1) (C) of Income Tax Act from the Income Tax Department levying penalty of Rs 436.80 crore for the assessment year 2009-10. NDTV said in BSE filing. The company said it is currently examining the order and legal option available to it. It will take necessary action accordingly.

Section 271(1)(c) provides for levying penalty in case an assessee has concealed income particulars or furnished inaccurate details.

ONGC pays government ₹36,915 crore for HPCL

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

AHEAD OF the Union Budget 2018-19 on Thursday, state-run oil explorer ONGC on Wednesday paid the government Rs 36,915 crore for its 51.1 per cent stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), boosting the Centre's non-tax revenues.

ONGC acquired the government's stake in HPCL in an off-market deal at a price of Rs 473.97 per share, the company said in a stock market filing.

The oil marketing company's shares closed at Rs 396.50 on the BSE on Wednesday, up 1.07 per cent from the previous day's closing price. "Several synergies are available through the acquisition... (complementary asset portfolio, midstream and downstream presence and access to marketing network)," ONGC added. With the conclusion of the HPCL deal, the Centre has netted Rs 92,500 crore via disinvestment so far in the current fiscal, against target of Rs 72,500 crore for the full year. The Centre's disinvestment proceeds this fiscal are poised to exceed Rs 1 lakh crore, more than double the level achieved last year. FE

INSIDER TRADING NORMS COMPLIANCE CASE

Larsen & Toubro settles Sebi probe

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 31

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said that Larsen & Toubro (L&T) along with its non-executive chairman A M Naik and director Shailendra N Roy have settled a probe initiated by the regulator into alleged late compliance with insider trading norms by paying over Rs 10 lakh.

In a settlement order of January 30, Sebi said it has agreed to settle proposed adjudication proceedings in the case, pertaining to the delayed compliance of insider trading norms after the firm filed a plea under the settlement regulations "without admitting or denying the findings of fact and conclusion of law".

While Sebi did not disclose details of the case pertaining to L&T and its executives it said the company and its two officials had allegedly made "delayed compliance of Sebi (Prohibition of Insider Trading) regulations".

In 2015, when the adjudication proceedings were still pending in the case, the firm ap-

proached Sebi to settle the case on payment settlement charges. In April 2017, the representatives of the firm met the regulator's internal committee where the settlement terms were deliberated.

Subsequently, Sebi's High Powered Advisory Committee recommended the case for settlement on the payment of Rs 10.27 lakh. This includes Rs 2 lakh, over Rs 4.72 lakh and over Rs 3.54 lakh by L&T, Naik and Roy respectively. Sebi said the settlement was also approved by its panel of whole-time members, after which they firm and its executives remitted the money. "The proposed adjudication proceedings for the alleged defaults... are settled," said Sebi. The regulator said it would not initiate any enforcement action for the alleged defaults.

**BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED**
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
Office of the Sr. General Manager Telecom,
Telephone Bhavan, Kala Talao, Kalyan (W)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. KYN/MM-IV-ETender-103/Vehicle-17-18 Dtd:27/01/2018.
Digitally Sealed e-tender is invited by Sr. GMTD BSNL Kalyan for provision of transport services for the field and the head quarters offices of the BSNL, Kalyan Telecom District.
For more details log on website
www.eprocure.gov.in & www.maharashtra.bsnl.co.in

Sd/-
Asst. General Manager (MM),
O/o GMTD Kalyan-421 301
Tel No. 0251-2310300

Regd. & Corporate Office:
Bharat Sanchar Bhavan, Harish Chandra Mathur Lane, Janpath, New Delhi-110001.
CIN:U74899DL2006001107739 Website:www.bsnl.co.in

**BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED**
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Office of the General Manager Telecom,
Telephone Bhavan, Kala Talao, Kalyan (W)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. KYN/MM-IV-EOI-90/EOI for Maintenance & Upkeep of part of telecom infrastructure in Kalyan Telecom District/17-18 Dated: 27.01.2018.
Digitally Sealed tenders are invited by Sr.GMT Kalyan for Maintenance & Upkeep of part of telecom infrastructure in Kalyan Telecom District. For more details log on website
www.eprocure.gov.in & www.maharashtra.bsnl.co.in

Sd/-
Asst. General Manager (MM)
O/o GMTD Kalyan-421301

Regd. & Corporate Office:
Bharat Sanchar Bhavan, Harish Chandra Mathur Lane, Janpath, New Delhi-110001.
CIN:U74899DL2006001107739 Website:www.bsnl.co.in

**Government of India**
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS
(Regional Office, Civil, Guwahati)
H. No. 7, 2nd Floor, Rajgarh Main Road, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003
Tel.: 0361-2522592, E-mail: rogphy2015@gmail.com

No. RW/GHT/MN/DO/OJ/2016-17/18&19/AE Dated: 30th January, 2018
NOTICE INVITING RFP
The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRT&H) invites proposals from eligible consultants empanelled for supervision by MoRT&H for engaging an Authority's Engineer (AE) on the basis of International Competitive Bidding for the following contract package in the State of Manipur:-

Sl. No.	NH No.	Project Stretch	Project length (km)/ Project Cost (₹ in Crore)	Assignment period (months)
1.	NH-39 (New NH-02)	Consultancy service for Authority's Engineer for supervision of Strengthening of existing 2-lane pavement i/c paved shoulders on NH-39 (new NH-02) Mao - Imshah section (SH, Mao-Sonapat & Sonapat-Kouburu Leikai section) from km 212.325 to km 260.000 and from km 260.000 to km 287.000 respectively on EPC mode (3 rd call)	74.675 / 370.33	36 months construction period + 48 months maintenance period

Note:-
1. The Complete Bid Document can be viewed / downloaded from the official e-procurement portal of Government of India i.e. from Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> from **30.01.2018 to 28.02.2018** (upto 1700 hrs IST). Bid must be submitted online only at <https://eprocure.gov.in> on or before **01.03.2018 upto 1100 hrs IST**. Bids received online as well as hard copy shall be opened on **02.03.2018 at 1100 hrs IST**. The RFP has also been uploaded on INFRACON (www.infracon.nic.in). Before submitting the proposals the consultants shall mandatorily register and enlist themselves (the firm and all key personnel) on INFRACON portal. All the bidders registered on "INFRACON" shall form a Team on "INFRACON" which would be assigned unique INFRACON Team ID. Bidders while submitting the RFP proposal shall furnish registration details in INFRACON including INFRACON Team ID.
2. Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, original bid documents as per requirements of Clause 4.1 of the letter of invitation to Consultants (section-II of RFP) shall be submitted physically by the bidder on or before **01.03.2018 upto 1100 hrs IST** in the Office of the Regional Officer MoRT&H, Guwahati. Please note that the Ministry of road Transport & Highways reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDS without assigning any reason whatsoever.
3. Corrigendum/addendum, if any, will be published only in the above website only.

Regional Officer,
Regional Office (Civil), Guwahati
Government of India, MoRT&H, House No-7 (2nd Floor),
Rajgarh Main Road, Chandmari, Guwahati-781003.
E-mail: rogphy2015@gmail.com

**भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**
इसका नौटन कॉम्प्लेक्स ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX
नईदरगिरी पी ओ MAHENDRAGIRI PO
तिरुनेलवेली जिला TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT- 627 133, तमिलनाडु TAMILNADU

प्रचय पं भंडार प्रभाग/PURCHASE & STORES DIVISION दिनांक /DATE: 31.01.2018
निविदा सूचना नं., आईपीआरसी/प्रचय.प्र.पं/पीई/ई-भाग/33/2017-18 /TENDER NOTICE NO.IPRC/HS/PT/18-PROC/23/2017-18
भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए और उनकी और से प्रमाण, प्रचय पं भंडार, इसका नौटन कॉम्प्लेक्स (आईपीआरसी), महेंद्रगिरी निम्नलिखित की आपूर्ति हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित करते हैं। For and on behalf of the President of India, Head, Purchase & Stores: ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri invites online tenders for supply of the following:

क्र.सं., Sl.No.	निविदा संदर्भ नं., Tender Ref. No.	संक्षिप्त विवरण Brief Description	निविदा प्रस्तुतिकरण की न्यूनतम तिथि व समय Last Date & Time for Tender Submission
1.	आईपीआरसी/प्रचय/2018ई0194901 (एक-भाग) IPRC/PUR/2018E0194901 (Single-Part)	द्रव हाइड्रोजन Liquid Hydrogen	Upto 20.02.2018 12:00 hrs.

प्रमुख विभाग द्वारा इसका नौटन कॉम्प्लेक्स में उपलब्ध <https://eprocure.isro.gov.in> पर नए और केवल ऑनलाइन द्वारा अपने कोरेडन अकाउंट को इस विधि से सुचारु रूप से बनाए रखें और नौटन कॉम्प्लेक्स वेबसाइट में चेक जा सकेंगे। आप इसका वेबसाइट निम्नलिखित रूप से देखा करें। The interested vendors may visit our ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX Link in URL <https://eprocure.isro.gov.in> and upload your quotations through online only. Corrigendum if any, issued after publication of this Tender Notice, will be posted in our web site. You may please visit the site regularly.
प्रमाण, प्रचय पं भंडार / Head, Purchase & Stores, फोन नं. / Phone No: 04637-281552/1553/1554/0350

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, B&R BRANCH ON BEHALF OF
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Tender Notice No: 71/EE/PWD/FZR Dated: 29.01.2018
Government of Punjab on behalf of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India invites bids from the eligible contractors for the following project to be implemented on EPC mode in the state of Punjab.

Sr. No.	Name of work.	Estimated Cost (In Crore)	Completion Period.	Maintenance Period.
1	Rehabilitation and Upgradation of two lanes with paved shoulder from Makhu (Design Ch 0+000) to Arifke (Design Ch 25+400) including ROB including Approaches & Viaduct at LC No 93- 81/2-E near village Padhri and LC No 102-3/2-E near village Sudhara) via Mallanwala in the state of Punjab on EPC Mode (Excluding GST).	190.60	1.5 years	4 Years

Schedule of Bidding Process is as under :-

1. Invitation of RFP (NIT)	29.01.2018
2. Bid Documents viewed/downloaded from web site https://morth.eproc.in	10.02.2018 to 15.03.2018 upto 1700 Hours
3. Last date for receiving queries	16.02.2018
4. Pre-Bid meeting	19.02.2018 at 01.00 P.M. in the office of Chief Engineer (NH), Chandigarh
5. Authority response to queries latest by	23.02.2018
6. Last Date of Request for BID documents	15.03.2018 (Upto 1300 Hours)
7. On line Bid Submission date	15.03.2018 (Upto 1700 Hours)
8. Physical submission of Bid Security/ POA etc.	16.03.2018 up to 17.00 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, Central Works Division, PWD, B&R Br, Ferozepur
9. Opening of Technical Bids	19.03.2018 at 1130 Hours in the office of Chief Engineer (NH), Chandigarh
10. Declaration of eligible/qualified bidders	To be declared later on
11. Opening of Financial Bids	To be declared later on
12. Letter of Award	To be declared later on
13. Validity of BID	120 days from BID Due date.
14. Signing of Agreement	To be declared later on

The complete BID documents can be viewed/downloaded from official website of MORT&H <https://morth.eproc.in> from 10.02.2018 to 15.03.2018 upto 1700 Hrs. IST. Bid must be submitted online only at <https://morth.eproc.in> on or before 15.03.2018 upto 1700 Hrs IST. Bids received online shall be opened on 19.03.2018 at 1130 Hours.
Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security documents fee, Power of Attorney and joint bidding agreement shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 16.03.2018 upto 1700 Hrs IST in the office of the Executive Engineer, Central Works Division, PWD, B&R Br, Ferozepur. Please note that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BID without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Executive Engineer,
Central Works Division, PWD, B&R Branch,
Ferozepur (Punjab).

**एलएलएल लाइफकेयर लिमिटेड**
(एन गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया एंटरप्राइज)
CIN: U25192 DL 1966 GOI 002621
KANAGALA - 591 225, DIST: BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA, INDIA
PH: NO- 08333-279240, 279244. FAX: 08333-279245
E-mail: purchasek@hlllifecarehll.com & sanitarynapkin@hlllifecarehll.com
HL: BG: PS: TENDERS: 2018-19 DT: 01.02.2018

TENDER NOTICE
SUB: INVITATION OF TENDERS - REG.
HLL LIFECARE LIMITED, a 'Mini Ratna' PSU under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, invites Bids from competitive Manufacturers for: **Supply of Raw Materials for manufacturing & packing of sanitary napkin.** Please refer our website www.lifecarehll.com for further details of Tender documents & related amendments.
Dy.General Manager (Purchase)

स्वास्थ्य विभाग के लिए स्वास्थ्यपत्र | Innovating for Healthier Generations

**TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED**
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

The Transmission Corporation of A.P Limited invites bids for the following work.

Spec. No.	Name of Work	Date of Tender documents on On-line
NOB-3/2017	Supply, Erection, Construction, Testing and Commissioning of 132/33kV Substations, connected lines and bays at T. Sundupalli, Satellite City in YSR District and at Penumuru in Chittoor District on Turnkey basis	01.02.2018 at 10.00 AM

Note: i) Name & address of the officer inviting tenders-Chief Engineer/Construction, APTRANSCO, Viduth Soudha, Vijayawada.
ii) The contractors/firms are requested to upload the information in the Zip format preferably.
iii) Further details can be seen @ <https://www.eprocure.gov.in>
PHONE/FAX No. 0886-2429231
R. O. No. 44/17

Sd/-
Chief Engineer/Construction

**NMDC Limited**
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
10-3-31(A), Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
Telephone: 0991-40-2338713 to 2338721 Ext.: 228 / 635 / 672 / 371, 23538710
Email: procure@nmdc.co.in; apneta@nmdc.co.in; rajneta@nmdc.co.in; rajneta@nmdc.co.in
punjab@nmdc.co.in, CIN: L3100AP195020011674

Tender Notice (E-Procurement Mode Only)
Global Tenders are invited on-line for supply of the following to NMDC Limited, R&D Centre, Uppal, Hyderabad, Telangana State, India.

Sl. No.	Tender No. date	Description	Display and sale of Tender Documents	Last Date & Time for submission of Tender through online
1.	HQMM/0013-17/R&D/827 DT 30-01-2018	ASH FUSION TESTING APPARATUS (1 No.)	01-02-2018 (11.00 am IST)	01-03-2018 (2.30 pm IST)
2.	HQMM/0014-17/R&D/828 DT 30-01-2018	SOFTENING & MELTDOWN DETERMINATION EQUIPMENT (1 No.)	01-02-2018 (11.00 am IST)	05-03-2018 (2.30 pm IST)
3.	HQMM/0018-17/R&D/829 DT 30-01-2018	BLAIN NUMBER MEASURING EQUIPMENT (1 No.)	01-02-2018 (11.00 am IST)	06-03-2018 (2.30 pm IST)

Open Tenders are invited on-line for supply of following to NMDC Limited, BIOM, Kirandul Complex, Chhattisgarh State, India.

1.	HQMM/1027-15/57F901/289 Dtd: 31-01-2017	SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF IP BASED CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM INCLUDING 4 YEARS COMPREHENSIVE AMC	02-02-2018 (11.00 am IST) To 23-02-2018 (2.30 pm IST)	23-02-2018 (2.30 pm IST)
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The detailed tender document can be downloaded from our website www.nmdc.co.in under tender section, www.eprocure.gov.in and www.msicccommerce.com. Any corrigendum to the tender notices will be uploaded in tender section on our website www.nmdc.co.in only and will not be published in newspapers. Prospective bidders may visit the NMDC website from time to time to note the corrigendum, if any.

Executive Director (Materials)

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CIRCLE,
COIMBATORE

Tender Notice No. 12/2017-18/HDO/Dt. 29.01.2018
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu sealed Schedule Tender is invited for Construction of second level fly over extension in Gandhipuram area Coimbatore city Coimbatore (H), C&M Division. Approximate Value of Work is **Rs. 19.00 crores**. Tender will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M Circle, Coimbatore upto **3.00 pm on 07.03.2018** and will be opened at **3.15pm on 07.03.2018**.
Details regarding works, Contract Value, EMD, Tender Schedule Cost and other details are available in the following website <http://tenders.tn.gov.in> (or) <http://www.tnhighways.org> any changes in the above notice will be published only in the above websites.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H),
C&M CIRCLE, COIMBATORE-18

DIPR/393/TENDER/2018

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CIRCLE,
TIRUNELVELI

TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No. 11 /2017-18/D1/Dated. 22.01.2018.
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed percentage tender will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M Tirunelveli Circle Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme and Maintenance Works Contract for 5 Years in State Highways and Major District Roads in Virudunagar (H) C&M Division Jurisdiction (Including Initial Rectification widening and Strengthening) at his office up to **2.30 Pm** (As per office clock) on **15.03.2018** in respect of **Virudhunagar (H) C&M Division**.
Details of Name of work, Approximate value of work, EMD, Price of tender document, Place and availability of tender document, receipt of tender, opening of tender and all other details are available in the web site <http://www.tnhighways.org> (or) <http://tenders.tn.gov.in>. If any changes/ corrections etc. to the tender, it will be published on the above website(s) only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H),
C&M CIRCLE, TIRUNELVELI

DIPR/417/TENDER/2018



GOLD

₹30,240



RUPEE

₹63.58/\$



OIL*

\$66.86



SILVER

₹39,170

*Indian basket as on January 31, 2018. Price derived for standard gold from Mumbai market

DECEMBER QUARTER

ICICI Bank standalone net falls 32.4% on high NPAs

Consolidated net profit down 27% at ₹1,894 cr for quarter to Dec 2017

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 31

ICICI BANK has reported a 32.43 per cent decline in standalone net profit at Rs 1,650 crore during the quarter ended December 2017 from Rs 2,442 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal as treasury income declined during the quarter.

Managing director and CEO Chanda Kochhar attributed the dip in profit to the very low treasury income, which slid by over 92 per cent to a low Rs 66 crore on hardening of yields.

However, in Q3 of last year, non-interest income included Rs 893 crore of treasury gains due to increase in liquidity and decline in yields following demonetisation and Rs 82 crore of exchange rate gains relating to overseas operations (subsequently reversed in Q4-2017 as the RBI disallowed recognition of such gains in the P&L account).

The bank posted an over 27 per cent fall in its consolidated

ASSET QUALITY DETERIORATES

■ Asset quality of the bank witnessed further deterioration with the gross NPAs moving up to Rs 46,038 crore (7.82 per cent of the gross advances) as on December 31, 2017

■ The bank had outstanding loans of Rs 10,060.75 crore to 18 account holders against which insolvency proceedings have been initiated

net profit at Rs 1,894 crore for the quarter to December 2017 as against a net profit of Rs 2,611 crore in the corresponding October-December quarter of 2016-17.

Asset quality of the bank witnessed further deterioration with the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) moving up to Rs 46,038 crore (7.82 per cent of the gross advances) as on December 31, 2017 against Rs 38,084 crore (7.20 per cent) on December 31, 2016. Recoveries and upgrades were Rs 1,108 crore from non-performing loans in Q3-2018 compared to Rs 1,029 crore in

Q2-2018 and Rs 625 crore in Q3-2017, the bank said.

Kochhar said none of divergences which were found by RBI were beyond the 15 per cent threshold set by the regulator, beyond which a bank has to disclose it as a divergence.

The bank had outstanding loans of Rs 10,060.75 crore to 18 account holders against which insolvency proceedings have been initiated. Of this, 98.6 per cent amounting to Rs 9,915.06 crore has been advanced to accounts classified as NPA. The bank has made provisions of Rs 3,662.59 crore against these out-

standing loans.

The total domestic loan growth was at 16 per cent year-on-year as on December 31, 2017 compared to 13 per cent on September 30, 2017. Retail loans grew by 22 per cent year-on-year at December 31, 2017 compared to 19 per cent year-on-year at September 30, 2017.

Income on consolidated basis was higher at Rs 28,501 crore during the quarter ended December of 2017-18 as against Rs 27,876 crore in the same period a year ago, the bank said. Net interest income grew by 6 per cent year-on-year to Rs 5,705 crore in the quarter ended December 2017 compared to Rs 5,363 crore in the quarter ended December 2016. Domestic net interest margin was 3.53 per cent and the overall net interest margin was 3.14 per cent in Q3-2018. Non-interest income was Rs 3,167 crore in Q3-2018 compared to Rs 3,939 crore in Q3-2017. Provisions declined sequentially from Rs 4,503 crore in Q2-2018 to Rs 3,570 crore in Q3-2018.



Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and his team give final touches to the Union Budget 2018-19 on Wednesday. *Remuka Puri*

HC upholds ₹3,500-cr arbitral award in favour of Daiichi

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

'CONCEALED INFO'

■ In November 2008, Daiichi Sankyo took the matter to Singapore arbitration tribunal stating that Malvinder Mohan Singh and his associates concealed information "about the genesis, nature and severity of pending investigations by USFDA and DoJ against Ranbaxy..."

THE DELHI High Court on Wednesday passed a verdict allowing the Japanese drug major Daiichi Sankyo to enforce the Rs 3,500 crore award, which was decided by the Singapore arbitration tribunal in April 2016, against former Ranbaxy promoters Malvinder Mohan Singh and Shivinder Mohan Singh in India.

"It was clearly within the domain of the Arbitral Tribunal to assess damages. The award has given various reasons for having rejected the suggested formula/computation by the respondent (Singh brothers). The respondent received Rs 9,576.1 crore for sale of their shares. Damages have been assessed at Rs 2,562 crore plus interest and costs. The plea of the respondents (for not enforcing the award) cannot be accepted," the Delhi HC order stated.

Daiichi Sankyo signed a Share Purchase and Share Subscription Agreement (SPSSA) on June 11, 2008, under which it paid around Rs 19,800 crore to purchase Singh brothers' stake in Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd.

In November 2008, Daiichi Sankyo took the matter to Singapore arbitration tribunal stating that Malvinder Mohan Singh and his associates concealed information "about the genesis, nature and severity of pending investigations by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) and Department of Justice (DOJ) against Ranbaxy thereby fraudu-

lently inducing the Daiichi Sankyo to acquire the shares".

In its April 2016 order, the Singapore arbitration tribunal rejected the contentions of Singh brothers. "It (tribunal) concluded that the respondent's (Singh brothers') representation during the due diligence period fraudulently induced the petitioner to enter into the SPSSA. It accepts the petitioner's (Daiichi's) plea that it would not have entered into the SPSSA had it not believed and relied upon the respondent's representations and assurances. The existence of SAR (self assessment report) in the hands of the US authorities meant that Ranbaxy's shares were pregnant with disaster," the Delhi HC stated.

"The plea of the respondent that the claim was time barred and that this plea has wrongly been rejected (by Arbitral tribunal) cannot be accepted as a ground to hold that the award is

Core sector growth slips to 4% in Dec

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

GROWTH OF the eight core sectors slowed to a five-month low of 4 per cent in December 2017 due to negative performance of segments like coal and crude oil, official data showed on Wednesday.

The output growth recorded in December is the lowest since July 2017, when these core sectors had witnessed 2.9 per cent expansion. These eight industries — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity — had witnessed a growth of 5.6 per cent in December 2016. The output of coal and crude oil sectors contracted 0.1 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively during the month under review.

Growth in steel and electricity generation slowed to 2.6 per cent and 3.3 per cent respectively in December last year as against 15.9 per cent and 6.4 per cent in the same month of 2016.

Refinery products, natural gas, fertiliser and cement recorded healthy growth last month. Cumulatively, the growth in the eight core sectors during April-December this fiscal slowed to 4 per cent as against 5.3 per cent in the same period last fiscal. The growth in key sectors will have implications for the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) as these eight segments account for about 41 per cent of the total factory output.

'Data protection a challenge with digital transformation'

India Inc's journey towards digital transformation has introduced new risks, especially around managing data, over the last two years, according to a survey done by global consulting firm EY

70% of Indian respondents see data protection and data privacy compliance as increasing areas of concern

46% are worried about cyber breach and insider threats

FORENSIC DATA ANALYTICS

The role of advanced Forensic Data Analytics (FDA) and emerging technologies will continue to be pivotal to mitigate escalating digital threats.

■ 71% had effectively utilised FDA in cases of data protection and privacy, according to the India findings

■ 87% for financial statement fraud, against the global average of 73% and 77%, respectively

RISK LANDSCAPE

■ The current business environment demands reassessing the risk landscape as a result of new regulations around data protection and data privacy, increased multi-jurisdictional co-operation and rising digital vulnerabilities

DATA SANCTITY

■ This is an apt time for management to maintain the sanctity of data, and derive the true benefits of FDA by integrating it within their compliance programmes for increased return on investment

■ In 2018, Indian organisations will see greater investments in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics process automation and blockchain technologies, among others

CYBER SECURITY STANDARDS FOR POWER UTILITIES

Two BIS groups to issue norms within 6 months

DEEPAK PATEL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

TWO GROUPS at the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which are currently working to review and enhance the cyber-security standards for power utilities, are likely to issue them within next six months.

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) — the apex policy advisory body in the electricity sector — submitted its report to Ministry of Power titled 'Cyber Security in Power System' on July 19, 2017. In this report, it raised the red flag and communicated to the government on "a perceived lack of security built into the smart grid systems" of Indian power sector and "an urgent need to develop a cyber security framework and regulatory response to address the specific security needs of the power sector in India". This CEA report mentioned the two groups at BIS that have been working to issue cyber security standards.

The BIS informed *The Indian*

The Bureau of Indian Standards has been working on the part two of Indian Standard 16335 for more than 15 months, says a senior government official

Express on Monday that the first group "is currently working on the part two of Indian Standard 16335 which would consider India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) cyber security manual as reference document". In 2015, the BIS published the part one of Indian Standard 16335 'Power control systems — Security Requirements', which specified the requirements for identification and protection of all critical assets involved in generation, transmission, distribution and trading of power.

According to a senior government official, the BIS has been working on the part two of Indian Standard 16335 for more than 15 months. "We have studied the last year's CEA report. We expect the BIS to issue the part two of this (16335) standard within next six months," the official added.

The second group at the BIS is

currently studying and exploring the adoption of IEC 62443, which has been issued by International Electrotechnical Commission, as an Indian standard. The senior government official quoted above told *The Indian Express* that the second group is likely to issue the adopted standard within next 6-7 months only. IEC-62443 is a series of standards that define procedures for implementing electronically secure Industrial Automation and Control Systems (IACS).

When the *The Indian Express* asked the BIS about the time by when the second group will issue the Indian Standard 62443, it stated: "The IEC 62443 series is already a published series of International standard. The second Subgroup work was to study and explore the adoption of IEC 62443 as Indian standard. This

work is still in progress."

"Though India in past few years has developed technical standards for evaluating cyber security/ cyber-attacks, there is a perceived lack of security built into the smart grid systems. Further, the mechanism for information sharing on cyber security incidents need to be developed. Given the vulnerabilities in the operations of the power system devices, including present practices followed, developing a multiple-threat intrusion detection system is the need of the hour," the CEA stated in its report that was submitted on July 19 last year. When *The Indian Express* asked the BIS if the Ministry of Power has asked it to develop any additional standards after July 19 last year, the BIS replied in negative.

A smart grid — any power network used to supply electricity to consumers via two-way digital communication — is more vulnerable to cyber attacks. "Unfortunately, sophisticated cyber attacks on advanced metering infrastructures (smart grids) are a clear and present

danger. The most devastating scenario involves a computer worm that traverses advanced metering infrastructures and permanently disables millions of smart meters," said a study published in International Journal of Infrastructure Protection in September last year.

The CEA's report came in the backdrop of a December 23, 2015 incident, when hackers successfully attacked information systems of three prominent power distribution companies in Ukraine, disrupting the electricity supply to approximately 250,000 Ukrainians. A similar small-scale attack occurred in Ukraine's capital, Kiev in December 2016 and led to a power outage for about an hour. Ukraine had blamed the attacks on Russian hackers. The Wannacry ransomware attack in May 2017 had affected computers and systems in 150 countries, including India after which, the Ministry of Power had tasked the CEA with constituting a committee to discuss various issues including "cyber security issues in the power sector".

Trai slashes mobile number portability rates by 79%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

CITING INCREASE in the volume of porting requests for mobile numbers, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Wednesday reduced the cap on charges to be paid by consumers to shift their cellular numbers to a different service provider by nearly 79 per cent to Rs 4. So far, the prescribed ceiling charge for mobile number portability was Rs 19.

The regulator had initiated a consultation process to review this levy in mid-December, and had an open-house discussion on the same on January 16. "Considering the upsurge in the volume of porting requests...and the financial results of both the Mobile Number Portability Service Providers (MNPSPs) for the last two available years, the Authority is of the view that the present ceiling of Rs 19 is quite high as compared to cost and volume of transaction involved," Trai said in a statement. The two

MNPSPs have been allocated regions according to two zones — the North Zone and the South Zone. Syniverse Technologies (India) Pvt Ltd offers MNP service in the North Zone, while MNP Interconnection Telecom Solutions India Pvt Ltd offers the service in the South Zone.

Notifying the regulation to reduce the porting charges, the sector regulator said on Wednesday it has "decided that the per port transaction charge may be reduced as the costs of operations of MNPSPs have substantially

gone down and the volume of MNP traffic has increased".

Reacting to the development, mobile operators' body Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) said: "We welcome the decision of Trai to reduce the MNP per port transaction charge to Rs. 4 for each successful porting request. Trai had prescribed Rs. 19 as per port transaction charge vide its Regulation dated November 20, 2009. Thus, a revision was long overdue. Operators have been requesting Trai to bring down this charge as the MNP

transaction have increase manifold since inception of MNP. In several instances, the operators were bearing this cost on behalf of the customers approaching them for the port-in. Hence, it will be beneficial for both customers and operators as the cost of porting will be greatly reduced".

As per Trai's monthly report on telecom subscription data, the cumulative requests for porting of mobile numbers from one service provider to another grew to 331 million in November 2017 from 18.6 million in August 2011.

FY17 GDP growth unchanged at 7.1%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

INDIA'S GDP growth rate for 2016-17 remained unchanged at 7.1 per cent, as per the first revised estimates released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) released for the previous financial year on Wednesday. The CSO, however, revised upwards the Gross Value Added (GVA) growth rate to 7.1 per cent from 6.6 per cent estimated earlier.

For 2015-16, the CSO released the second revised estimates, revising the GDP growth to 8.2 per cent from 8.0 per cent estimated earlier, while the GVA growth rate was revised upwards to 8.1 per cent from 7.9 per cent estimated earlier. The third revised estimates for 2014-15 were also released, according to which the GDP growth rate for 2014-15 has been revised downwards to 7.4 per cent from 7.5 per cent, while the GVA growth rate was revised upwards to 7.2 per cent from 6.9 per cent.

For 2016-17, the GVA growth rate for primary sector consisting of agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining & quarrying sectors was revised upwards by CSO to 7.4 per cent for 2016-17 from 4.4 per cent estimated earlier, while the GVA growth rate for secondary sector (manufacturing, electricity, gas, water supply & other utility services and construction) was revised marginally upwards to 6.1 per cent from 6.0 per cent.

The GVA growth for 2016-17 for tertiary sector comprising all services saw a downward revision to 7.5 per cent from 7.7 per cent estimated earlier. "Use of revised estimates of sales tax and other items in central and state


UPWARD REVISION OF GVA

■ The CSO, however, revised upwards the Gross Value Added (GVA) growth rate to 7.1 per cent from 6.6 per cent estimated earlier

government budget documents instead of Budget estimates; and replacement of key financial indicators derived from advance filings of a small sample of companies with actual analysis of financial reports of a larger sample of public and private sector companies," CSO said.

As per the new methodology followed by the CSO, GDP is calculated by adding product taxes to GVA at basic prices and removing subsidies.

Actual analysis of financial reports of a larger sample of public and private sector companies instead of key financial indicators derived from advance filings of a small sample of companies used earlier were cited as the reason for variation for secondary sector's GVA growth by the CSO. Use of fourth advance estimates of crop production and final estimates of horticulture crops as against third advance estimates of crop production and second advance estimates of horticulture crops used in the provisional estimates; revision in estimates of livestock products; and use of annual financial reports of public and private sector companies in place of IIP in the case of 'mining & quarrying' were the reasons given by CSO for upward revision of GVA growth for primary sector.



CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
 (A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
 Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road,
 Koyambedu, Chennai – 600 107, India.

NIT NO: CMRL/CON/ATW-07/2018
TENDER NO - ATW-07
Tender No. ATW-07- Phase-I Extension - (under JICA loan agreement JICA ID - P 258) Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Ballastless Track of Standard Gauge in Elevated, Underground Sections and Wimco Nagar Depot along with supply and installation of Buffer stops for Chennai Metro Phase-I Extension Project.
 Please refer CMRL website www.chennaiMetroRail.org for particulars.
 DIPR/428/Tender/2018 Director (Projects)

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Sagalee Division, PWD, Arunachal Pradesh, Sagalee invites on behalf of Governor of Arunachal Pradesh online item rate bids on single bid system for following work:-

NIT No.SLD/USD/RUSA/88, Name of work: **Infrastructure for Govt. Engineering College at Toru, Papumpare District in Arunachal Pradesh (Phase-1).** (SH: Academic & Administrative Block, Boys Hostel, Girls Hostel & Boundary Wall).

Estimated Cost: **Rs.24,42,06,000.00**, Earnest Money: Rs.24,42,060.00 for APST contractor & Rs.34,42,060.00 for Non-APST Contractor, Period of completion: 24 months & Last date and time of submission of bid:**24/02/2018 -1300 Hrs.**

The tender forms and other details can be downloaded from the website <https://pwwar.etenders.in> from 1030 Hrs. of **01/02/2018 to 1300 Hrs of 24/02/2018**.

The Press Notice is also available at the same website.

DIPR/ARN/3685-89




UJVN LIMITED
 H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharan Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
 (Telephones: 0135-2763808, & Fax- 0135- 2763508)
 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025066, Website : www.ujvn.com

Tender Notice
 Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Ichari Dam, Ichari via PCM-Dakpathar, UJVN Ltd., Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed and separate tenders from interested bidders. Brief summary of tenders are given below:
Tender No. 08/EE(E&M)ICHARI/TN/2017-18: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Ichari Dam in District Dehradun
Estimated Value of Work : Rs.24,96,000/- (GST Extra)
Tender Fee (Including VAT) : Rs.1180/-
Earnest Money : Rs.74,900/-
Availability of tenders on web site : w. e. f. February 02, 2018
Last Date/Time for downloading of tender : February 23, 2018 Upto 14:00Hrs
Last date/time for submission of tender : February 23, 2018 Upto 16:00Hrs.
Date & Time for opening of tender : February 24, 2018 at 11:30 Hrs.
 For full & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents of the above works can be downloaded from the Nigam's web site "www.ujvn.com".

Executive Engineer (E&M)
 Ichari Dam, Ichari

पत्र. ६६ दिनांक ३०.०१.२०१८

" Avoid wasteful use of Electricity "



BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
No. 4109 Dt.31.01.2018
Auction Sale Notice for Package of Parking lots in BMC area
 Sealed tenders are Invited by registered /speed post / Courier only addressed to the Commissioner, BMC Bhubaneswar from intending parties In prescribed tender form along with EMD mentioned against the **5 Packages** consisting of **64 parking** lots for One year as In the Notice and In the website. The EMD and Tender Paper cost separately should be In Shape of Bank draft drawn in favour of Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar. The details of the tender is available in BMC / Zone Office notice boards and BMC Website - <http://bmc.gov.in>.
 The deadline for the above are as follows:-
 1. Last date for sale of tender paper at BMC Office : **17.02.2018 up to 5:00 PM.**
 2. Last date for receipt of tender paper : **20.02.2018 up to 3:00 PM.**
 3. Opening of tender papers : **20.02.2018 at 4:00 PM** in the Conference Hall of BMC .

Deputy Commissioner (Revenue & Tax)
 Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
 Progress Through Partnership for a Better Bhubaneswar



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
 Administrative Building, Sector - 6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
 Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
 E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(1) 49/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2017-18	(2) 56/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2017-18
(3) 73/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2017-18	(4) 74/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2017-18
(5) 84/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2017-18	(6) 103/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2017-18
(7) 108/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2017-18	(8) 115/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2017-18
(9) 117/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2017-18	(10) 145/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2017-18
(11) 231/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2016-17	(12) 258/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2016-17

(13) **265/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2015-16** Which can be uploaded by date **09/02/2018 upto 5:00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date **12/02/2018 at 11:00 AM**.

Incharge Tender Cell

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
HASDEO BARRAGE W/M DIVISION,
RAMPUR/KORBA DISTT. KORBA (C.G.)

CORRIGENDUM No.-01
 Following Amendment is made in system Tender No. 25991 NIT No. 09/SAC/2017-18 Rampur/Korba 04.01.2018 (G.No.47047) **Name of Work:-** Filling of Expansion joints by Apoxey I/C Removing cleaning of old expansion Joint's at open trough R.D. 13050m to 13820m Churku Nalla Aquaduct R.D. 12020m. Kachandi Nalla, Aquaduct R.D. 15780m. of Hasdeo LBC & Ahiran Aquaduct main & parallel Canal R.D. 5870m. Gangdai Nalla Aquaduct R.D. 23560m, Karra Nalla Aquaduct R.D. 29672 M. Chautariya Nalla Aquaduct R.D. 38910m, Rasota Aquaduct R.D. 41200m, of HRBC.

SN	Earlier Published	Ammdement
01	Last date for submit bid Online date 30.01-2018 time 17.30 PM	Last date for submitte bid Online date 07.02.2018 time date 17.30 PM
02	ANNEXURE-1-1.3Bid Capacity Assessed Bid capacity 1.5xAxB-C>Bid amount	ANNEXURE-1-1.3 Bid capacity- Assessed bid capacity (1.5xAxB)-C-I>Bid Amount
03	ANNEXURE-III	ANNEXURE-III-NEW PROFORMA
04	ANNEXURE-VI	ANNEXURE-VI-NEW PROFORMA

As per Order of Government of Chhattisgarh, Water Resources, Department, Naya Raipur Latter No. 228-7 -7/31S-2/2001 (part), Naya Raipur, dated 11.01.2018

All other terme and condition will be unchanged.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Hasdeo Barrage W/M Division,
Rampur/Korba



MAINTENANCE SOUTH DIVISION. ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
KIDWAI NAGAR (WEST), NEW DELHI-110023
E-Procurement Tender Notice
Tender ID No.2018 NDMC 144218_1
Name of Work: R&M of H.T. Mains in M/S Area.
Sub Head: Supply of H.S Type St. Th. Joint boxes and end terminations joint suitable for 11kV PILCA Cables in M/S area. Estimated cost: 19,39,920.00
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 30.01.2018
Last date/time for receipt of bid/ tenders through e-procurement solution : 12.02.2018 3:00 PM
Date/Time for opening of bid/tenders through e-procurement solution: 12.02.2018 at 3:30 PM
Further details can be seen at www.ndmc.gov.in or <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
(Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with application services provider (NIC) is mandatory.
Executive Engineer (M/S)



North Eastern Railway E-Tender Notice no. 8 of year 2017-18
E-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), N.E. Railway, Imratnagar for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works:-

Description of works	Approx. Value	EMD Money	Cost of Tender Form
(1) Provision of Additional Safety and Reliability Aids in IZN Division, N.E. Railway.	₹ 1,83,38,466.60	₹ 2,41,700/-	₹ 5,000/-
	Completion period : 180 days		
(2) Hiring of 2 No. Double Cab Pickup Van (Capacity 5 Person + 1 MT Load) for S&T supervisors & 3 No. 7 Seater Non-AC Vehicle for S&T Officials of IZN Division for one year.	₹ 22,90,255.44	₹ 45,810/-	₹ 3,000/-
	Completion period : 12 Months		
	* > Date & time of closing of e-tenders 06-03-2018 at 15-00 Hrs.		

*Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. * The tender can be viewed at website <http://www.dreps.gov.in>. * The bidders/bidders must have Class-(II) Digital Signature Certificate & must have register on IRI/PS portal. * All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering.

Sr. Div. Signal & Telecom Engineer
N.E. Railway/Imratnagar

CPRO/Slg/91
Railway Vlg. Mobile Help Line No. 8551-155218 (Regarding corruption complaint)

"PASS LEVEL CROSSINGS SAFELY"

Notice Inviting e-Tenders

The Assistant Engineer (Electrical), Allahabad Central Electrical Sub Division-I, Type-IV, Quarter No. 1, I.A. & A.S. Colony, (A.G.U.P.) Dr. Lohia Road, Rajapur, C.P.W.D., Allahabad-211001 on behalf of President of India, invites online percentage rate tenders from enlisted contractors of CPWD for Internal & External electrical installation work or appropriate class in composite category.

NIT No. 54/ACED/2017-18 Name of Work : MOEI & fans, P/set, S/light at RVTI, Allahabad. (SH:- Comprehensive Maintenance of IEI and operation of essential E&M services and Comprehensive maintenance of pumps). Estimated Cost : ₹ 5,71,616/-, Earnest Money : ₹ 11.432/-, Period of Completion : 08 Months. Last time and date of submission of tender : 08-02-2018 at 11:00 AM.

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD.

छत्तीसगढ माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल, रायपुर
 निविदा सूचना क्रमांक /2032/वर्षान/2018 रायपुर, दिनांक 29/01/2018

अल्पकालीन द्वितीय निविदा सूचना

छत्तीसगढ माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल, रायपुर के गोपनीय सामग्रीयों के परिवहन कार्य प्रदेश के सभी जिलों में भेजे जाने हेतु खोली बोडी ट्रकों, बसों, टाटा एस.डी.-आई वाहन की व्यवस्था किये जाने बाबत सीलबंद निविदाएं दिनांक 12.02.2018 को सायं. 04.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदाकारों की समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा के साथ सकल्प वन राशि रुपये 1,00,000/- (एक लाख रुपये मात्र) का किसी भी राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक का बैंक ड्राफ्ट जो सचिव, छत्तीसगढ माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल, रायपुर के नाम देय हो, संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है।

निविदा प्रकाशन तिथि से निविदा फार्म एवं अन्य जानकारी रुपये 1000/- (एक हजार रुपये) बैंक ड्राफ्ट द्वारा जमा कर कार्यालयीन समय में दिनांक 12.02.2018 को दोपहर 01.00 बजे तक मण्डल कार्यालय के वाहन कक्ष क्रमांक 06 प्रथम तल, एकीकृत भवन से प्राप्त किये जा सकते है। निविदा फार्म दिनांक 12.02.2018 को अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे तक ही स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं निविदा फार्म मण्डल वेबसाइट www.cgbse.net/www.cgbse.nic.in पर भी उपलब्ध है। जिसे डाऊनलोड कर रुपये 1000.00 का डी.डी. /गालन सचिव, छ.ग. माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल पेंशन बाड़ा रायपुर के नाम तैयार कर निविदा फार्म के साथ जमा कर सकते है।

निविदा को बिना कोई कारण दर्शाते हुए निरस्त करने का सर्वाधिकार, सचिव, छत्तीसगढ माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल, रायपुर के पास सुरक्षित होगा।

हस्ता/-
उप-सचिव

84785 छत्तीसगढ माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल, रायपुर



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
 New Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 Sealed tenders are invited from reputed agencies to regularly develop update and maintain the requisite software(s), process(es) and procedure(s) existing database along-with data of online applications during the period of contract, generation of e-certificates, verifications of e-certificates and provide online support facilities including online landline and mobile for the candidates of the NET Examination. About 10 lakh candidates apply for each NET Examination. Printouts of JRF Award letters, about ten to twelve thousands per annum. Interested parties may drop their tenders on or before **22.02.2018 upto 1.00 p.m.** in the drop box installed at University Grants Commission, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002 and the same will be opened upto **3.00 p.m.** on the same day. The tender documents can be obtained from UGC website i.e. www.ugc.ac.in.

Secretary, UGC

कार्यालय उपसंचालक परू चिकित्सा सेवायें, जिला बालोद (छ.ग.)
जनपद पंचायत के सामने, नयापारा रोड बालोद, पिनकोड-491226
 Phone & Fax No. 07749-223160 E-Mail-ddvsbhalo.cg@nic.in
 क्रमांक 3927-31/ भण्डार/निविदा/ETP/2017-18 बालोद, दिनांक 24/1/2018

TENDER NOTICE

कलेक्टर जिला बालोद छ.ग. के निदेशानुसार Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) क्रय/स्थापना हेतु निविदा निम्नाना फर्मो/अथवा उनके अधिकृत विक्रेताओं से नीचेखंद निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है। निविदा प्रपत्र को प्राप्ति के लिये 1500/- (अक्षरी-एक हजार पांच सौ) नगद या बैंक ड्राफ्ट के माध्यम से भुगतान कर 22.2.18 तक कार्यालयीन दिवस एवं समय में प्राप्त किया जा सकता है डाक से निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने हेतु डाक व्यय 200/- अक्षरी (दो सौ रु. मात्र) अतिरिक्त भुगतान करना होगा। निविदा पत्र क्रय की राशि वापसी योग्य नहीं होगी। डाक द्वारा प्रेषित निविदाओं में किसी भी प्रकार के विलंब के लिये कार्यालय जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा। निविदा प्रपत्र का अवलोकन कार्यालयीन दिवस की किया जा सकता है जिसमें क्रय किये जाने वाली सामग्री का नाम अनुमानित मात्र एवं जमा की जाने वाली धरोहर राशि के साथ निविदा शर्तों का उल्लेख किया गया है।

क्र.	निविदा का प्रकार	निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि	जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि/ समय	निविदा पत्र तिथि/खोलने तिथि/समय
1.	Supply of Effluenct Treatment plant 10kld and instalation (for milk processing plant Balod)	24.01.2018 से 22.02.2018 तक	23.2.2018 3 PM तक	23.2.2018 4 PM तक

निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने, जमा करने, खुलने का स्थान-

कार्यालय उपसंचालक परू चिकित्सा सेवायें जिला-बालोद

निविदा से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी हेतु जिले के वेबसाइट <http://ahd.cg.gov.in> का अवलोकन कर सकते है, एवं निविदा प्रपत्र डाऊनलोड की जा सकती है। डाऊनलोड की हुई निविदा प्रपत्र की राशि निविदा जमा करने समय उपसंचालक परू चिकित्सा सेवायें बालोद के पंचायत से डिमांड ड्राफ्ट द्वारा जमा करना अनिवार्य है। निविदा केवल रजिस्टर्ड प्लेट (ए.डी.) अथवा स्प्रीड अथवा पी एण्ड टी विभाग के अधिकृत कोषियर के द्वारा प्राप्त की जावेगी। अथवा निविदा पेटी में डाली जायेगी। निम्नांकित सम्भावधि के परचार प्राप्त निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जावेगी। निविदा आमंत्रण की कार्यवाही स्थगित/निरस्त करने का समूचा अधिकार उप संचालक परू चिकित्सा सेवायें जिला-बालोद के पास सुरक्षित है।

अधोस्ताक्षरी को यह एकाधिकार सुरक्षित होगा कि वह बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के सामायिक कार्यों के आभार पर जो कि विचार योग्य नहीं है, निविदा को निरस्त /रद्दपोषण कर सकता है। इस बाबत किसी भी प्रतिभाषी से किसी भी प्रकार की चर्चा नहीं की जावेगी और ना ही पत्राचार स्वीकार किया जावेगा।

अतः निविदा संबंधित समस्त एकाधिकार सुरक्षित रहेगा। यदि आप इससे सहमत हो तो ही निविदा में प्रतिभाषी बनें।

हस्ता/-
उपसंचालक परू चिकित्सा सेवायें जिला बालोद (छ.ग.)

47728

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
TENDER NOTICE NO. 11/2017-18
HARYANA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Shakti Bhawan, Panchkula
CIN: U40101HR1997SGC033683

Online Tender are invited for providing One No. Additional 20/25 MVA, 132/33 KV T/F with 132 KV & 33 KV Bays at 132 KV S/Strn. Sec-3, Rohtak.

Estimated Cost/Earnest Money (In Lacs) : 5,65,259/11,500/-

Last Date of Online Bid Submission : 20.02.2018 upto 13.00 hrs.

Details NIT and tender document is available at website <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> , <https://www.hvnpn.gov.in>

Sd/- Xen/TS Division,
HVPNL, Rohtak.

60665/HRY



DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
 Office of the Director No.49, Khanija Bhavan, South Block,
 Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560 001. Phone: 080-22384134/35/36

No: DMG/STORES/SSPP/2017-18 Date: 26-01-2018

e-TENDER PUBLICATION

e-Tender documents are invited in Two Cover System from the eligible registered companies/firm/agencies/(incorporated under companies act 1956) for **Printing and Supply of Special Security Permit Papers.**

Tender documents can be downloaded from the e-Procurement website <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Last date for submission of e-tender is 31.03.2018 at 5.00 p.m. Bids shall be submitted online through e-procurement platform only

DIPR/BDU/RO.No.1067/17-18



RAIL VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED
 (A Government of India Enterprises)
INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB NO: RVNL/BBS/TENDER/HDS-PRDP/Elect/SJUJ TSS/2017-18/05, Date: 01.02.2018

RAIL VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED invites bids for the work of “Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 132/25 KV, 2 X 21.6 MVA, Traction Sub-Station, Feeding Post, Shunt Capacitor Bank and with other Associated Works at SJUJ in Haridaspur-Paradeep Section under Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway in the State of Orissa”.

(1) Approximate Cost: **Rs. 10,53,52,497/-** (2) Completion period: **12 Months** (3) Date of Opening of bids for sale: 01.02.2018 (4) Further details may be seen on our website www.rvnl.gov from 01.02.2018.

Group General Manager (Electrical),
Bhubaneswar – 751023
2300548
Email: gmrlnvlbs@gmail.com



IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
 (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
 Website: www.ircon.org CIN:U45203DL1978GOI008171

e-Procurement Notice

e-Tender No: IRCON/J&K CELL/JAT/14/1014/K-B/PMGSY-T49A-Adit/A, Road/R/391 Dt.: 31.01.2018 e-Tender in Two Stage bid system are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of “Widening and Strengthening of Existing approach road of 10km. of PMGSY Road from Sumbar To Bajmasta and 3km. length from Bajmasta to Urnihal proposed Adit location for the proposed New Adit at Urnihal for Tunnel T49A Works on Katra - Banihal Section of Udhampur - Srinagar - Baramulla Rail Link Project, Jammu and Kashmir. (Pkg: T49A Adit Road-R)”.

Estimated Cost of the work	₹ 3286.80 Lakh
Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 22.44 Lakh
Completion Period	06(Six) months
Cost of Tender Documents	₹ 30,600 (Thirty Thousand Six Hundred only)
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission	16.02.2018 upto 11.00 Hrs. (IST)

For further details, visit website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/IRCON>. Amendments/ Corrigendum, if any would be hosted only on the website.

Chief General Manager /Banihal

Address: J&K Rail Project, Katra - Banihal Section, VII, Krawah, Post Banihal, Distt. Ramban, J&K 182146

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION
 The Executive Engineer, Shahanjahanabad Re-Development Project Division-1, PWD, Western Bank, Lok Nayak Setu, ITO, New Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India, Online Item/ Percentage Rate bids on two bid system from approved & eligible contractors of CPWD & those of appropriate list of M.E.S., B.S.N.L., Railway & other State Govt. 's Department dealing with buildings & roads and other experienced contractor's for following work.

S. No	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Allowed	Last date & time for receipt of Tender through e-procurement solution	Date of opening of Tender through e-procurement solution
1	A/R & M/O to various road under PWD SRD Division-I, PWD, New Delhi. dg. 2017-18 (SH: Provision of yellow coloured maintenance van with required labour with T&P to attend day to day maintenance under Sub-Division-II). NIT No. 99/EE/SRD-1/PWD/2017-18 (Recall) (TENDER ID. 2017_PWD_144297_1) Rs. 18,49,548/-	Rs. 36,991/-	12 Months	02/02/2018 upto 3.00 PM	02/02/2018 at 3:30 PM
2	Beautification of Minto Road, J.L.N. Marg, Ranjeet Singh Marg & N.S. Marg under Sub Division-II of SRD Project Division-I, PWD (GNCTD) New Delhi for upcoming visit of representatives of ASEAN Countries. NIT No. 103/EE/SRD-1/PWD/2017-18 (TENDER ID. 2017_PWD_144303_1) Rs. 51,46,217/-	Rs. 1,02,924/-	45 Days	02/02/2018 upto 3.00 PM	02/02/2018 at 3:30 PM
3	A/R & M/O PWD Roads under SRD Division-I, Sub-Division-II, PWD, New Delhi during 2017-18 (SH: Providing water tanker with Hydraulic Jet Facilities for day to day cleaning of kerb stone, crash barrier, footpath, railing, plants and planter etc.) NIT No. 104/EE/SRD-1/PWD/2017-18 (TENDER ID. 2017_PWD_144306_1) Rs. 6,75,828/-	Rs. 13,517/-	4 Months	02/02/2018 upto 3.00 PM	02/02/2018 at 3:30 PM

Further details can be seen at : <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

GOVT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
HEADQUARTER 25 SECTOR ASSAM RIFLES, C/O 99 APO
 Tender Notice No. ACR/2017-18/51
 Dated : 10 Jan 2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
ADVERTISED TENDER ENQUIRY

1. For and on behalf of the President of India, the Directorate General Assam Rifles, Shillong invites online tenders under TWO BIDS SYSTEM (Technical & Financial Bid) from Assam Rifles rifles approved contractors and enlisted contractors working with other Central Government department/organizations meeting eligibility criteria for selection of contractor, for execution of the following work as given in the schedule to tender:-

Ser No	Description of stores required	Approximate cost (in Lakhs)	Earnest money (in Rs)	Tender Fee (in Rs)
(a)	PROVN OF 01 NO CH/DH (PFTS 15X8M) AND 01 NO JCOS LIVING ACCN (PFTS 15X8M) INCL ALLIED SERVICES FOR COB OF AR BN AT WAKKA (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)	60.77	1,22,000/-	1,500/-

Date of uploading in CPP Portal : 10 Jan 2018

Last date and time of receipt of online tender : 02 Feb 2018 at 1200 hrs.

Date and time of online tender opening : 03 Feb 2018 at 1230 hrs.

Earnest Money: **Rs.1,22,000.00** (Rupees one lakh twenty two thousand only) through FDR / Bankers Cheque / Bank guarantee is required to submitted in favour of DG Assam Rifles, Shillong-10

Tender Cost : **Rs.1,500/-** (Rupees one thousand five hundred only) through demand draft is required to be submitted in favour of DIGAR HQ 25 Sector Assam Rifles, payable at Jorhat.

2. The lump sum amount to be quoted for the entire work by the tenderers shall include all taxes including GST and labour cess as applicable at the time of awarding of contract and during the execution of work till completion.

3. The Director General Assam Rifles as the CFA reserves the right to reject or accept any application/tender without assigning any reasons.

4. Any inquiries by the tenderer may be obtained from the undersigned on any working day from 0830 hours to 1430 hours. This tender notice is also available on the Assam Rifles website at www.assamrifles.gov.in.

Note:- The complete tender documents can be accessed & downloaded from CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> Please check regularly the website for any changes/modification /amendment in the Tender Enquiry. This TE is being issued with no financial commitment and DGAR reserves the right to change or vary any part thereof at any stage. He also reserves the right to withdraw the TE, should it become necessary at any stage.

Those filling in the tender entries are advised to ensure that their tenders are complete in all respects, all documents have been filled in and all supporting documents are uploaded only in CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Incomplete tender enquiry is liable to be rejected.



Raipur Development Authority
 Bhakta Mata Karma Complex, New Rajendra Nagar
 RAIPUR (Chhattisgarh)492006 Website:www.rdaraiipur.com.
 Email: cerdayarp@gmail.com, Telefax: 0771-2536188

NIT No.09, Dated: 23-01-2018, System Tender No-26984

NIT (3rd Call) for Development of Vender Zone at Sharda Chowk, Raipur (C.G)

Raipur Development Authority (RDA) invites "Percents Rate" Rate tenders in "Form A" from eligible contractors registered in Class B & above under unified registration system in CG PWD with valid UIN or Equivalent Registration in any State Govt. Dept./Central Govt. Dept./PSU and qualifying the Pre-qualification Criteria as detailed in the tender Document. The tender documents can be downloaded from "<https://leproc.cgstate.gov.in>" on 23.01.2018 @5:30 PM to before 03/02/2018 up to 5:30 PM. Probable Amount of Contract <

[illegible]



BANYAN

Trading places

Asia is taking the lead in promoting free trade

THE OBITUARY OF the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was widely written when Donald Trump pulled America out of the 12-country free-trade deal on the third day of his presidency. Yet, a year later and against all the apparent odds, the pact lives on. On January 23rd its remaining 11 members met in Tokyo to thrash out the final details of pressing ahead regardless. The plan is to sign a final agreement in March, to come into force in 2019. It will be one of the world's most exacting trade pacts, measured by openness to investment from other members, the protection of patents and environmental safeguards.

The pact's resurrection is one of the more unlikely events in a year of surprises. After all, America accounted for almost two-thirds of the original bloc's \$28trn in annual output. Access to the vast American market was what made other members readier to open up their own. Moreover, Mr Trump's retreat had sent a dismal message about the prospects of the open, rules-based order that America had underwritten. The Asia-Pacific region had benefited more than any from that order in recent decades—yet Mr Trump was declaring multilateralism dead and signalling an intention to raise barriers to trade. Soon afterwards, he ordered South Korea to renegotiate its free-trade agreement with America. And this week he imposed punitive tariffs on imported washing machines and solar panels, aimed at South Korean and Chinese manufacturers.

In spite of this forbidding backdrop, the dauntless 11—Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam—have regrouped. In Vietnam in November their leaders sketched out an agreement on the core features of a revised deal. The pact's name has changed, to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), in case the original had tripped too lightly off the tongue. But remarkably few (22, to be precise) of the original provisions have been frozen. The victims are mainly strictures insisted on by America. For instance, copyright has been reduced from 70 to 50 years. And special protections for biologics, a booming category of drugs, have been suspended.

A few concessions were made to those still in the pact. Malaysia will not immediately have to liberalise its state-owned enterprises. Communist Vietnam can put on hold new rules about resolving labour disputes and allowing independent trade unions.

The biggest foot-dragger was Canada, the second-biggest economy in the group (after Japan), which had wanted special treatment for cultural industries such as television and music — a concern for Francophone Canadians — and changes to the rules on imports of cars. Canada has a big car-parts industry, which caters mainly to American carmakers. Now that America has dropped out of the pact, fewer cars from this integrated North American supply chain will have enough content from CPTPP countries to qualify for tariff-free access to other members. But Canada will still have to open its market to Asian cars, subjecting



Trade ministers and delegates from the remaining members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) attend the TPP Ministerial Meeting during APEC 2017 in Da Nang, Vietnam, on November 9, 2017. Reuters

its car-parts firms to a one-sided dose of foreign competition.

In the end Canada's concerns were met with a favourite TPP trick: "side letters" between it and other members, that are not officially part of the deal. One of them promised Canada greater access to the Japanese car market. CPTPP's members were sufficiently determined to revive the pact, in other words, that they gritted their teeth and compromised.

How does CPTPP carry on, even as multilateralism has fallen out of favour elsewhere? For some members, including Japan, which has done most to keep the show on the road, there is a strategic imperative: to prop up the old rules-based order in America's absence. (The less-welcome alternative might be an order overseen by

China.) Bilahari Kausikan, a Singaporean ambassador-at-large, predicts that America will eventually return to the partnership. After all, CPTPP (and TPP before it) is not typical of the tariff-cutting deals that Mr Trump claims have shafted America. Rather, it breaks ground in setting American-inspired standards and safeguards for everything from online commerce to creative indus-

tries. Mr Kausikan believes it is only a matter of time before American firms are clamouring to take part.

Before then, others may seek to join an arrangement designed to be infinitely expandable. South Korea, Indonesia and the Philippines have expressed interest—even Britain has. And CPTPP is not the only trade deal making progress in Asia. Japan has just

concluded a sweeping agreement with the European Union. The Association of South-East Asian Nations is seeking to create a vast free-trade area encompassing China and India, among others.

Fair blow the Asian trade winds

In Asia free trade is more popular than it is in America and much of Europe. The question is why. One explanation is that in the West, trade creates winners and losers; in Asia, at a lower stage of development, it mainly creates winners, though some gain more than others.

Yet that is not quite right. Asia's pell-mell development creates lots of losers. It can be traumatic to be forced off your land to make way for a palm-oil plantation or a high rise.

Inefficient rice-farmers across the continent have much to fear from free trade. Even in prosperous Singapore, points out Deborah Elms of the Asian Trade Centre, an advocacy group, it is still an emotional wrench to see nearly every landmark of your childhood vanish in an orgy of rebuilding.

The difference is that most Asians don't have what Mr Kausikan calls the illusion of choice. Trade is how billions of them have attained a modicum of prosperity. And thanks to rapid, trade-fuelled growth, the drawbacks of opening markets seem relatively insignificant. For as long as wrenching change is offset by the prospect of a better tomorrow, Asia will fly the flag of global trade even when it is being furled elsewhere.

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The Asia-Pacific region had benefited more than any from that order in recent decades—yet Donald Trump was declaring multilateralism dead and signalling an intention to raise barriers to trade. Soon afterwards, he ordered South Korea to renegotiate its free-trade agreement with America

SUPERSONIC FLIGHT

Boom boxed

Silencing a sonic boom would help a Concorde replacement

WHEN A BRITISH Airways Concorde travelling from New York touched down at Heathrow airport, in London, on October 24th 2003, supersonic passenger travel came to an end. Concorde was a technological marvel, but never a commercial success. Only 14 of them entered service. Yet the idea of building a successor has never quite gone away. Aircraft-makers review the idea from time to time. A number of groups are working on small executive jets intended to travel faster than the speed of sound. The trouble is, something else has also refused to go away: the shock wave known as a sonic boom that emanates from a supersonic aircraft.

That boom was one of Concorde's failings. It rattled windows and frightened animals, which meant the plane's flights over land were restricted to subsonic speeds. Throttling back an aircraft that is designed to fly fast is inefficient and causes it to guzzle a lot of fuel. If supersonic air travel is ever to return, Concorde's successors will thus have to quieten their act.

Several groups are trying to do this by tweaking designs to take account of advances in aerodynamics. By 2021 NASA, America's aerospace agency, hopes to fly a small experimental supersonic plane fitted with some of these modifications, such as a long, slender nose and engines blended into the fuselage. The agency expects this to reduce the sound of the shock wave to what it describes as a "low boom". But John Schlaerth, an aerospace engineer based in California, thinks he can take such modifications much further. He and his colleagues have filed for a patent on a set of designs which they believe might eliminate the

Concorde was a technological marvel, but never a commercial success. Only 14 of them entered service. Yet the idea of building a successor has never quite gone away. Aircraft-makers review the idea from time to time. A number of groups are working on small executive jets intended to travel faster than the speed of sound

boom's sound altogether at ground level.

A sonic boom is the product of a series of shock waves arising from various parts of an aircraft—particularly its nose, wings and engines—as it flies faster than the speed of sound (1,240kph, 770mph or Mach 1, at sea level). Those waves are caused because air molecules cannot get out of the way fast enough during supersonic flight, and thus build up in front of these parts of the plane. The consequent change in pressure then propagates through the air and, when it reaches the ground, is heard as a distinctive boom.

Mr Schlaerth's idea is to reflect and muffle the worst-offending waves. He would do this not by blending the engines into the fuselage, but rather by placing them well forward of the leading edge of the wing. That could be done either by mounting them on pylons extending from below the wing, or

by attaching them to the fuselage. Both configurations would cause the engines' exhaust plumes to reflect any shock wave forming in front of a wing upwards—ie, away from the ground.

Further shock waves, caused by the exhaust's counter-reflection downwards by the wing's wave, could be dealt with by modifying the engine casings to create a slower-moving stream of air below the plume. This slower air should form a boundary layer which, Mr Schlaerth says, would act as a "pneumatic cushion" that softened and impeded downward-propagating shock waves. The aircraft's long nose, meanwhile, would be shaped to direct its shock waves upwards and sideways. Waves from the engine inlets would be directed upwards too, and put to good use. Adding an appropriate downward curve to a wing would trap the wave and create an area of high pressure that would give the wing additional lift.

To find out whether all this would work, Mr Schlaerth recruited two experts in computational fluid dynamics to act as independent consultants. Tim Colonius of the California Institute of Technology and Luigi Martinelli of Princeton University each carried out a series of tests. Using sophisticated computer modelling, one test found that the shock wave from the wing could be reduced by 63% at Mach 1.5, and that a similar reduction would be expected at Mach 2 (Concorde's cruising speed). Another test showed that shock propagation below the engine was virtually non-existent. Further analysis, Mr Schlaerth says, indicates that the overall shock wave might be almost inaudible at ground level.



The last British Airways Concorde commercial flight to London leaves New York's John F Kennedy International Airport on October 24, 2003. British Airways retired the Concorde's commercial flights after operating for 27 years. Reuters

The next step is to replicate the computer tests using models in a wind tunnel, a task which the group hopes to take on later this year. Mr Schlaerth and his business partner, Mark Bryan, have founded a firm called New Century Transportation and Aeronautics Research to exploit the idea. If all goes well,

it could lead to an experimental aircraft to demonstrate the technology.

Reducing sonic booms to an acceptable level would allow overland flights, which should make the return of supersonic passenger travel more plausible. Much would depend on the cost of building and operat-

ing such aircraft. But the prospect of being able to fly from New York to Los Angeles in less than two hours, instead of a tedious six or so, would be welcomed by many a weary traveller.

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CALENDAR

TELEVISION, FUNNIES, CROSSWORD, SUDOKU & YOUR DAY

TELLY EXPRESS



Priest at 9 pm on WB

ENTERTAINMENT
STAR MOVIES

14:00PM The Blacklist
14:30PM The Blacklist
15:00PM Scare Tactics
15:30PM How I Met Your Mother
16:00PM Criminal Minds
16:30PM Criminal Minds
17:00PM MasterChef US
17:30PM MasterChef US
18:00PM Grandfathered
18:30PM How I Met Your Mother
19:00PM The Blacklist
19:30PM The Blacklist
20:00PM Grandfathered
20:30PM How I Met Your Mother
21:00PM MasterChef US
21:30PM MasterChef US

AXN

14:00PM Ray Donovan
14:30PM Ray Donovan
15:00PM Total Wipeout UK
15:30PM Total Wipeout UK
16:00PM Survivor
16:30PM Survivor
17:00PM American Ninja Warrior
17:30PM American Ninja Warrior
18:00PM Minute To Win It
18:30PM Minute To Win It
19:00PM Total Wipeout UK
19:30PM Total Wipeout UK
20:00PM Survivor
20:30PM Survivor
21:00PM American Ninja Warrior

21:30PM American Ninja Warrior
ZEE CAFE HD

14:00PM Celebrity Family Feud
14:30PM Celebrity Family Feud
15:00PM Top 20 Funniest
15:30PM Top 20 Funniest
16:00PM Hart Of Dixie
16:30PM Hart Of Dixie
17:00PM The Gong Show
17:30PM The Gong Show
18:00PM The Big Bang Theory
18:30PM The Big Bang Theory
19:00PM America's Funniest Home Videos

19:30PM Page Six TV
20:00PM The Big Bang Theory
20:30PM The Big Bang Theory
21:00PM Celebrity Family Feud
21:30PM Celebrity Family Feud
COLORS INFINITY
14:00PM America's Got Talent
16:00PM Bachelor In Paradise
16:30PM Bachelor In Paradise
17:00PM Beat Shazam
17:30PM Beat Shazam
18:00PM America's Got Talent
20:00PM Bake Off Creme De La Creme

20:30PM Bake Off Creme De La Creme
21:00PM Beat Shazam
21:30PM Beat Shazam
COLORS
14:00PM Ishq Mein Marjawan
14:30PM Tu Aashiqui
15:00PM Dil Se Dil Tak
15:30PM Belan Wali Bahu
16:00PM Savitri Devi College & Hospital

16:30PM Ishq Mein Marjawan
17:00PM Tu Aashiqui
17:30PM Sasural Simar Ka
18:00PM Kasam
18:30PM Savitri Devi College & Hospital
19:00PM Tu Aashiqui
19:30PM Ishq Mein Marjawan
20:00PM Shakti Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki Udaan

20:30PM Udaan
21:00PM Karmafal Daata Shani
21:30PM Laado Veerpur Ki Mardani

ZEE TV

14:00PM Zindagi Ki Mehek
14:30PM Kumkum Bhagya
15:00PM Kundali Bhagya
15:30PM Dance India Dance
16:00PM Dance India Dance
16:30PM Dance India Dance
17:00PM Bhootu

Housefull 3 at 2 pm on Star Gold



OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Of all our ____, the most savage is to despise our being. - Michel de Montaigne (11)

RILED



DMOII



AVYINT

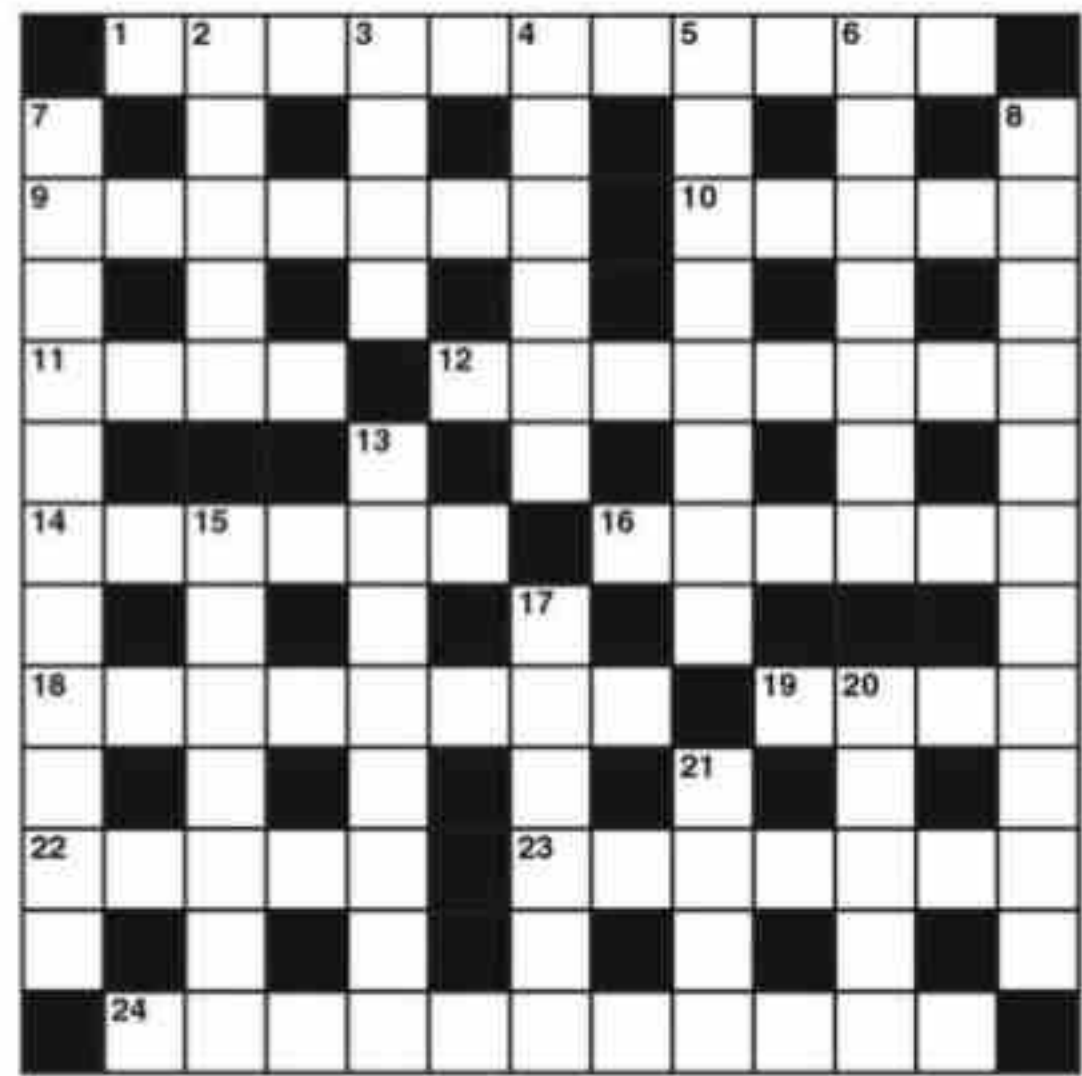


EKYFMS



SOLUTION: Of all our **infirmities**, the most savage is to despise our being. - Michel de Montaigne

CROSSWORD 3410



ACROSS

1 Lay out cash with financial caution? Not he! (11)
9 Support the conclusion on alternative points (7)
10 Leading brief (5)
11 We object to edition being second-hand (4)
12 Casting is one of his jobs in the studio (8)
14 Struggle for doctor getting into his overall (6)
16 Animal hunt (6)
18 Got there quite dishevelled but all in one piece (8)
19 Walk doggedly to work (4)
22 Subject - The Middle East (5)
23 No longer clear? Try and make it so (7)
24 Too mindful of others to create wanton desecration (11)

DOWN

2 Minister of the armed forces (5)
3 He ruled in pre-Antonine Rome (4)
4 Hole at the front (6)
5 Drove off, disgusted (8)
6 Squander food? (7)
7 What a revivalist may do? (11)
8 A person of intelligence no doubt (6,5)
13 Craftily trap hens for display in zoos perhaps (8)
15 New game not of interest to motorists (7)
17 Guard is fed up to death (6)
20 Jumped and broke a plate (5)
21 Fight blows up (4)

Solutions Crossword 3409: Across: 1 Pelota, 4 Smoulder, 9 Nelson, 10 Write off, 12 Loir, 13 Cows, 14 Mess, 17 Propositions, 20 Straitjacket, 23 Used, 24 Smart, 25 Clot, 28 Firm hand, 29 Single, 30 Exercise, 31 Cortes. Down: 1 Penelope, 2 Lollipop, 3 Trot, 5 Moral victory, 6 Up to, 7 Drover, 8 Refuse, 11 Logical minds, 15 Coati, 16 Inlay, 18 Skylight, 19 Stutters, 21 Ruffle, 22 Hearse, 26 Chic, 27 Dido.

SUDOKU

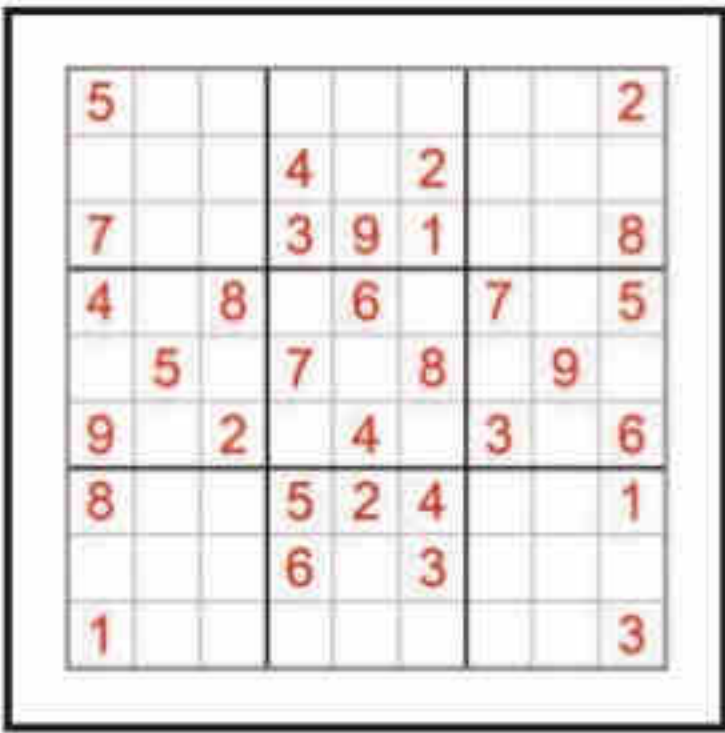
3387

Difficulty Level 2s Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 3386



DAY TODAY

By Peter Vidal

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)



You should spare yourself some time for quiet contemplation. Reflection on your past, present and future will be vital if you are to get a current partnership into perspective. And don't worry if a partner is behaving out of character. It should pass in time.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)



Let's face it, you're not inclined to compromise if you're not in the wrong. You can be courteous, sensitive and willing to help some of the time, but sometimes other people have to recognise that they can't sit on you without facing the consequences. Mind you, you do need to consider other people's feelings.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)



The most positive area of your life should be work, even though there is a serious danger of emotional explosions. You may also be inclined to worry about your physical fitness and energy levels, in which case you should seek reassurance - and get the best advice.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)



A series of planets places the spotlight clearly on passion, adventure and romance. The conclusion seems to be fairly clear: everything that happens will be reflected through your deep-seated desire for emotional ecstasy. That's the theory. The real outcome might be different.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)



It's difficult to see whether you will be vowing to leave home, evict a partner or merely spend your time shifting the furniture around. One way or another, you should indulge the pressure for emotional change. And confide in the people who understand you.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)



You may devote whatever spare time you have to making sure that, even if a partnership is coming to an end, at least you have your memories. On a purely material level, you may allow financial and business plans to drift, unless you're facing an immovable deadline.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)



Your daily stars indicate the need to get on with work, but your weekly and monthly cycles reveal that this may be well-nigh impossible. Life, as usual, is complicated. Your colleagues, partners and loved ones are all likely to create an emergency which throws you off course.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)



One of your major strengths is your ability to stick to a particular course of action. Some people call it stubbornness but, at the moment, it's what you need if you're to achieve your romantic goal. And if other people laugh at your dreams, that's their problem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)



You are bound to be irritated by a close friend or relation, whether you get what you want or not. You'll be troubled by the thought that the grass is greener on the other side, convinced that a partner is having an easy ride. But the truth is that you might have got the best of a deal. Be a bit more tolerant.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)



You may take decisions and hold discussions. It's important to have an exchange of views, because there's a slim chance that a little intelligent dialogue could help break through the day's general emotional turmoil. All you have to do is make the effort.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)



You must know that you are secure, and in this knowledge you can afford to take a few risks here and there. At work the positive angle is provided by the possibility that old wounds may now be healed. Build bridges, mend fences, and make the world a better place.

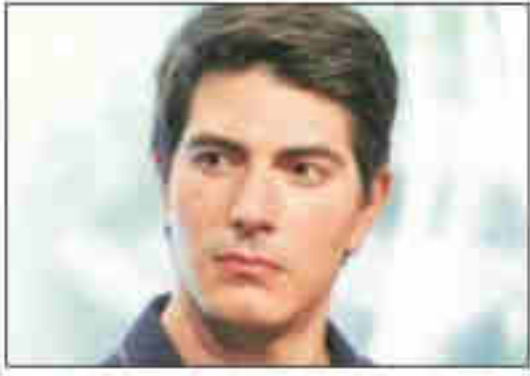
PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)



Your talent for survival is based on your ability to swim in and out of difficult situations before partners even notice you've arrived - or left. This is one of those moments when you can, if you wish, make yourself invisible. Mind you, don't take chances.

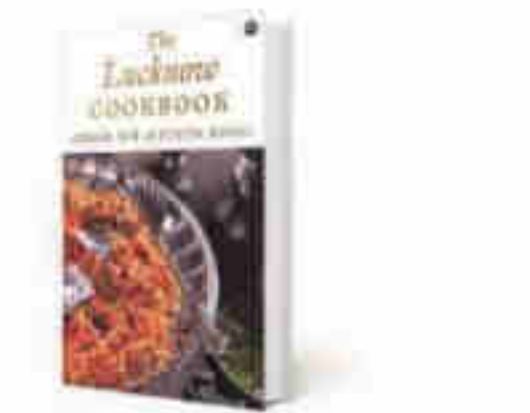


SNAP SHOTS



Princess Diary

SUPERMAN RETURNS star Brandon Routh has joined the cast of live-action movie, *Anastasia*. Set in 1917, the film is about Anastasia Romanov escaping through a portal when her family is threatened by Lenin, and finding herself in the year 1988, befriended by a young American girl. Emily Carey will play Anastasia. Routh will essay the role of Czar Nicholas in the Blake Harris-directed film.



Mixed Treat

AS THE mellifluous strains of Kabir's ghazals filled the lawns at the Turkish Ambassador's residence on Tuesday in Delhi, it formed the perfect backdrop to launch *The Lucknow Cookbook* (Aleph; Rs 500). This infusion of Turkish, Persian, Afghani, Sindhi, Punjabi, Nawabi and British influences is celebrated in the book through 150 recipes, and is co-authored by mother-daughter duo, Chand Sur and Sunita Kohli. Conversations around food and politics was the core of the panel discussion, "*Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb*". On the panel, moderated by journalist Vinod Dua, were the authors, politicians Pavan Varma and Salman Khurshid and educationist Arun Kapur. While interior designer Kohli spoke on how she grew up in a multi-cultural Lucknow, Khurshid shared his impressions of visiting Lucknow for the first time and observing its syncretic flavours. Varma said the Ganga-Jamuni *tehzeeb* was the base of our civilisation while Kapur noted that food was about togetherness. Dua's questions were laced with Urdu poetry and he drew attention to issues such as food dividing society and the importance of plurality.



Return of the Native

ASSAMESE FILMMAKER Jahnua Barua will direct *Unread Pages*, the first collaborative film with Hollywood under the Assam government's new tourism policy. A partnership between Hollywood's Ivanhoe Pictures and Mumbai's Easterly Pictures, the film is set in Assam and New York, will include Assamese and international actors and release in English and Assamese. The storyline revolves around a happy family that has been torn apart. The protagonist, who had to leave his land, decides to return for redemption. The tourism policy has been designed on the lines of European countries' and combines the potential of cinema with an attempt to increase inflow of visitors.



Look Northeast

TALKS, DISCUSSIONS, film screenings, performances, exhibitions and installations make up the calendar of ArtEast, a three-day festival, aimed at raising questions about art, livelihood, social justice, climate change, communication and history. In its second edition, the festival is being organised by The National Foundation for India in collaboration with India International Centre, from February 1 to 3 and has been curated by Kishalay Bhattacharjee, a former journalist and Associate Professor at OP Jindal Global University.

Music and the Master

Hindustani classical vocalist Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan, who was awarded the Padma Vibhushan last week, on a long performing career and how artistes should stay away from politics

SUANSHU KHURANA

WHEN FILMMAKER Muzaffar Ali wanted a tune to capture the initiation of his protagonist, Ameeran, a lost teenage girl, into classical music and dance to showcase her eventual transition into the dazzling Umrao Jaan, he got lyricist Shahryar and composer Khyyaam to create a five-minute concise course in Hindustani classical music. The result was *Pratham dhar dhyaan dinesh, Brhama Vishnu Ganesh... Ab mori nayiyya paar karo tum Nizamuddin Auliya*, a piece in Awadhi and exemplary of the Ganga-Jamuni *tehzeeb* that Wajid Ali Shah's Awadh was revered for.

The complex piece was based on seven ragas — Ramkali, Gujari Todi, Shuddh Sarang, Kafi, Yaman, Maalkauns and Bhairavi — defining different moods and colours of a day. To sing the piece in *Umrao Jaan*, Ali got Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan into the studio — the vocalist whose sonorous voice and varied style matched the illustrious lineage he came from.

Ghulam Mustafa was the grandson of famed vocalist Ustad Inayat Hussain Khan, founder of the Rampur-Sheheswan gharana, and was also married to Gwalior gharana pioneer Ustad Haddu Khan's daughter. His great-grandfather Ustad Qutubuddin Khan was the court musician for Nawab Wajid Ali Shah of Awadh. His family traces their Senia traditions to Mian Tansen from the *darbar* of Akbar.

"Unlike a lot of musicians from the past, I wasn't averse to singing for films. It was a great opportunity from Muzaffar Ali. People who didn't listen to classical music, also knew me after this," says Ghulam Mustafa, 86, who was awarded Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian honour, last week. The other two names conferred with the same award include Tamil composer Ilaiyaraaja and Bharatiya Vichar Kendra director and thinker P Parameswaran. Ghulam Mustafa was awarded the Padma Shri in 1991, followed by Padma Bhushan in 2006. "I'd like to thank our Prime Minister Modi ji and more than one billion people whose faith has given me this award. Any award is like the love of one's audience and I accept it humbly," says Ghulam Mustafa.

In 2014, he had called upon Modi for what was called a "courtesy call". A few months later, he also sang in director Shivaji Lotan Patil's *31 October* (2015), a film attempting to show the suffering of Delhi's Sikh population after Indira Gandhi's assassination. The song came as a surprise from a musician, who had decided to bow out of Bollywood in 1993, after a piece in *Shreemaan Aashique*. His only other prominent outing post that was in 2013 with his student and composer AR Rahman during

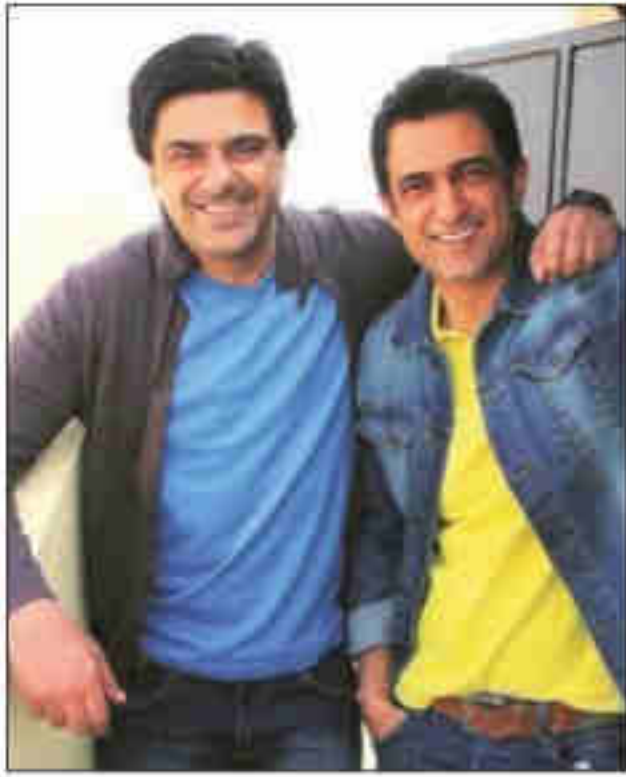


I began training under my father and performed for the first time at a Janmashtami concert at the age of eight. Everyone said he is very good. Life has continued since then

Coke Studio @MTV Sesaon 3, where Ghulam Mustafa presented raag Yaman with sons Murtuza, Qadir, Rabbani, Hasan and grandson Faiz. In 2016, a day before Independence Day, Ghulam Mustafa, with the members of his family, also released his version of the national anthem.

In the times when a lot of art and aesthetics are being considered in political contexts, Ghulam Mustafa says that as an artiste, he doesn't believe in engaging with politics. "Artistes are supposed to create art, not engage in politics. *Humko kahan aata hai ye sab?* I believe in doing what I am good at," he says.

Post the announcement of the award, the Mumbai-based musician was also honoured by Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow as he was born and raised in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh.



Sameer Soni (left) and Sanjay Suri

keep wondering what if this happens. This movie's story developed from the idea of an accidental death," said Soni, who counts *Memento* and *Sixth Sense* among his favourite thrillers. Both the actors believe that the lines dividing creative roles, such as acting, direction and production, have been increasingly getting blurred. "Digital medium has given us an opportunity to explore different ideas. Earlier, producers insisted on backing the formulas what had worked. Times are changing," says Suri, who debuted with *Pyaar Mein Kabhi Kabhi* (1999) and acted in acclaimed movies such as *Pinjar* (2003) and *My Brother...* *Nikhil* (2005).

Interestingly, Suri is an experienced producer who has backed films such as Onir's *I Am* and Bikas Mishra's *Chauranga*. While Soni calls Suri "the best multitasking expert" he knows, the latter shares his secret. "Rather than micro-managing, as a producer one needs to have a bird's eye view," says Suri. Both agree that, being indie filmmakers, they have to look at every aspect of filmmaking and its marketing.

Soni plans to direct at least one more movie. "There is another script that I have written. Later, if I feel strongly enough, I will take up scripts by others." Suri may even turn director to give shape to a script that his production house has developed.



PRIZE MOMENT

Helen Dunmore, a poet and author who died in 2017, has won the Costa book of the year for her final poetry collection, *Inside the Wave*. She is the second posthumous winner of the book of the year category in the prize's history. It is only the eighth poetry collection to take the top award.



(Clockwise from above) Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan; visiting Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his son, Rabbani Mustafa Khan in 2014; a scene from *Umrao Jaan* that featured his song

Ghulam Mustafa learnt music from his father Warish Hussain Khan there, followed by sitting at the feet of other family members including Ustad Fida Hussain Khan, the court singer of Baroda's royal *darbar* and then his other grandfather the iconic Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan. Inayat Khan's training had already allowed him to imbibe qawwali techniques — *palte*, *phirat* and *zamzama* — in his classical singing. "I began training under my father and performed for the first time at a Janmashtami concert at the age of eight. Everyone said he is very good. Life has continued since then," says Ghulam Mustafa. Then, there was the concept of attention to the lit-

eral content of a composition in the Rampur Sheheswan style, a rarity in most gharanas. Also, probably why at a time when most classical singers were banishing Hindi film music, Ghulam Mustafa found it easier to adapt.

Apart from his regular performances at prestigious classical music festivals, he sang in Mirinal Sen's *Bhuvan Shome* (1969), and the famed *Sajna kahe nahi aaye in Badnam Basti* (1969). However, some of his best-remembered pieces are in *Umrao Jaan*, especially the one about a bedecked swing in a mango grove on which the two lovers sway and embrace. The beautiful *Jhoola kinne daala re amariyan, a jhoola* in raag Desh, which res-

onated in Rampur and Banaras, found itself in people's homes in the '80s.

This was also the time when Ghulam Mustafa had acquired pre-eminence as a guru and a master of voice training. His popular students include names such as Asha Bhosle, Manna Dey, Ustad Rashid Khan (also his nephew), Waheeda Rehman, Geeta Dutt, Hariharan, Sonu Nigam, Alisha Chinoy, Shilpa Rao and Kalpana Patowary. "Performing and teaching, both have their own charm. I'm glad I have been able to do both," says Ghulam Mustafa, who will receive the award from President Ram Nath Kovind later this year at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Rift Zones

In India to attend literature festivals, Australian author Anna Funder on making art from life and why the #metoo campaign fills her with hope

PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI

THE BODY of her work — in particular, her much-feted non-fiction book, *Stasiland: Stories from Behind the Berlin Wall* (2003), accounts of members of the East Germany's state security service and those who opposed them, and her award-winning novel, *All That I Am* (2012), inspired by the lives of Jewish Germans, who fled to London before World War II and tried to raise alarm about Hitler — might have acquired heft from their historical antecedents, but Australian author Anna Funder is not really interested in history for its own sake. "I'm interested in what it is to be human, and in how humans have wielded and resisted power over one another. I'm especially interested in how and why some people do the right thing in circumstances where to do so is very dangerous for them. Why do humans have such a conscience? What is the price of following or not following it? So telling stories that have really happened is hugely exciting as an exploration of this almost unbelievable facet of the human animal... Though I am making art from life, I'm also honouring those real lives — or that's the aim, anyway," says Funder, 51, who is in India to participate in literature festivals in Kolkata and Jaipur.

As someone who has lived and worked across continents — in cities as different as Melbourne, Berlin, Paris and New York — and having worked briefly as an international human rights lawyer before she turned to full-time writing, the idea of home, refuge, memory and exile have been recurring themes in Funder's work. "...I like to have the sense of the contours of the culture I live within; to know that cer-

I'm interested in what it is to be human, and in how humans have wielded and resisted power over one another. I'm especially interested in how and why some people do the right thing in circumstances where to do so is very dangerous for them



Gaby Waldek

tain things — assumptions about food, or justice or gender relations or even the length and depth of conversations — are just assumptions everyone in that culture is making. Not any kind of absolute truth or 'rightness'; just one way of being." ...I like to have the sense of the contours of the culture I live within; to know that cer-

based loosely on Anton Chekhov's *The Lady with the Dog*.

Which is why when she moved to New York, where she lived for over three years before moving back to Sydney with her husband and three children in 2015, she would make wonderful friends and have a "terrific" experience, but she would also be privy to its disparities. "My experience of the US, which was mainly New York city, is that it's a glittering, wonderful first-world veneer over a third-world city. More than half the residents live below the poverty line; it's a culture of begging for tips. There's no universal healthcare. People are very vulnerable. If (US President Donald) Trump weren't the mentally and spiritually impoverished person he is, he would be able to see the sh***ole in his own country and do something about it," she says, in reference to President Trump's dig at some African nations, Haiti and El Salvador earlier this month.

Funder, who is currently working on a new novel and a collection of non-fiction pieces, had spoken out against gender disparity in literary awards and the gendered assessment of work and life that female writers face, earlier in her career. The #metoo campaign, she says, therefore, struck a chord with her. "I think it is epochal and I hope that its effects last, for western women and for women elsewhere, too. I was utterly elated by it, it made me feel that a huge, unspeakable and insidious force had been outed. I hope that it will mean, at the very least, that my daughters will never feel shamed or frightened into silence if they are sexually harassed. In the workplace, this kind of sexual violence, harassment and intimidation of women is a way of keeping us away from the power and the money," she says.



Virat Kohli addresses the media in Durban on Wednesday .

Kohli wants team to show Joburg belief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JANUARY 31

INDIA HAVE never won an ODI series in South Africa. In fact, they have only five wins in 27 matches against the Proteas in their lair. And yet, a day before the series opener in Durban, India captain Virat Kohli wasn't bothered much about these stats. He had his sights firmly set on the World Cup in England next year. Among other things that Kohli addressed about in the pre-series press conference was India's No.4 conundrum. Excerpts from the interaction:

On middle order options

“(At No.4) other than him (Rahane) we have Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey. We don't want to be one-dimensional. It depends whose technique is more suited to what spot especially in that particular country. All options are open. Although the lower middle order is more or less sorted, the middle order is something we are still looking at. The combination is working well for us with Hardik Pandya, Kedar Jadhav and MS Dhoni rotating and batting together.

“No. 4 is something we have experimented with in the last couple of series. That is the only spot I can see that needs to be solidified, otherwise the team looks pretty balanced

On core group

“It's about who takes that one particular spot (number four). It's not even spots above and below. Guys who are given the opportunity need to capitalise and really string in performances that convince the management and the team very soon that that guy is meant to play at that spot for the team. I feel the core of players is more or less pretty strong at the moment. Obviously changes can happen at any stage. You don't know whether someone is going to be in form or not or what the team requires at certain stages.

“It is about finding players who fit a particular spot better in certain conditions. That will be our mindset. We will play the World Cup in England, which will be very different to what we get in India. People who might be doing well at home might not necessarily repeat their performances in England. It's very different. We will have to figure out which players' game suits the team best in particular conditions that we play, at a particular spot.

“I don't think the quality of the team will be compromised in any way regardless of who takes the No.4 position because

we have strong batsmen above and below to stabilise the innings.”

On wrist-spinners

“We are one of the few teams, or probably the only team in world cricket, to be blessed with two wrist-spinners, while Kedar Jadhav is doing the conventional job pretty well for the team. Wrist-spinners help you in any conditions in the world. Wrist-spinners can go for six an over but they will pick you three wickets as well, which is eventually the difference in the game.”

On India's dismal record in SA

“We obviously want to win every series that we play. Thinking of records or doing something that hasn't been done before is not something you think of before achieving it. It just adds extra pressure, which is not needed. But yes, we took a lot of confidence from that last Test. As batsmen obviously, everyone is looking forward to stepping up. Like in the last Test how we believed in ourselves and ended up winning the Test. We have to carry the same belief throughout this series.”

On pitches for ODIs

“The wickets are going to be much better than the Test series, because of the format and this pitch looks pretty balanced I would say for a good game of cricket.”

On captaincy in limited overs

“In ODI cricket you have to think more, at every moment. In Test cricket, the game has a pattern, and it goes with a flow and a speed. So you can figure out in which session when the momentum shifts. But in ODI cricket it can be over to over. So you have to always stay ahead of the game. One advantage as a batsman is I can think like one and figure out what must be going through their minds. You have to be on top of the game and do things proactively first rather than later.”

On skill vs character

“For us as team management, and myself, we look at characters before we look at skill. We look at a guy who scored 40 when the team needed it the most. Compared to a guy who has scored runs but they might not have affected the state of the game that much. We look for game-changers, we look for guys who embrace pressure, we look for guys who want to be in difficult situations because in one-day cricket you don't have another day to come back and do something extra. You have to make decisions there and then.”

A different beast in ODI blues

India haven't lost a fifty-overs series in two years, they will look to stretch the streak vs South Africa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JANUARY 31

THE WANKHEDE scoreboard read: South Africa 438 for four, India 224 all out; South Africa won by 214 runs. After the match, Ravi Shastri, then the Indian team director, sought out curator Sudhir Naik and launched a broadside. The two teams had gone to Mumbai with the 2015 five-match ODI series tied at 2-2. The defeat at Wankhede saw India concede yet another limited-overs series to the Saffers.

Somehow, India have failed to crack the South Africa code in limited-overs cricket — bilateral limited-overs cricket to be precise. India's last bilateral series win in this contest came in 2009-10. And like Tests, India haven't won an ODI series in South Africa yet. The six-match series starting on Thursday in Durban arrives against this backdrop, although India will carry the feel-good factor of winning the third Test on a treacherous Wanderers pitch.

Just one point separates India and South Africa in the ICC ODI rankings at the moment. The Proteas sit atop the table with 120 rating points, while India breath down their neck on 119 rating points. The Virat Kohli-led side can usurp their hosts if they win the series 4-2 or better.

No pushovers

India will feel they have a chance. Unlike the Test series, where the Indian batting carried the dubious 'pushover' distinction on fast and bouncy pitches — they did very little to dispel the doubts in the first two Tests before showing real gumption in the third — white-ball cricket unshackles the majority of the batters in the team, mindset-wise. Rohit Sharma is perhaps the biggest case in point. The Mumbai batsman has proved to be a Test failure outside Asia. But he is a different beast in limited-overs cricket. In 174 ODIs, Rohit has scored 6,424 runs including three double hundreds. Away from home, he has scored 2,502 runs and six hundreds in 83 ODIs. So his overseas performance in the shorter form is commendable despite being a notch below his home record.

Shikhar Dhawan is another player who has struggled in Tests in seaming conditions, but did well in one-dayers (overseas games included), with 4,038 runs and 12 centuries in 96 matches. Dhawan and Rohit will once again be the first-choice openers in South Africa followed by Kohli at No. 3.

Rahane at No. 4?

The No. 4 spot still looks unsettled, about a year-and-a-half in the lead-up to the World Cup. Over the past one year or so, India have tried several players in that position without much success. The Yuvraj Singh retake didn't work; Manish Pandey has flirted with consistency; KL Rahul couldn't establish himself; and Shreyas Iyer is a spring chicken at this level. MS Dhoni is there, in form and pretty capable of occupying the place. But the former captain prefers No. 5 or No. 6. So it could be over to Ajinkya Rahane again in challenging conditions, especially after his bold 48 in the second innings at Wanderers last week. The ODI pitches are likely to be benign compared to what the Tests had thrown up. But the movement and carry are the basic characteristics of almost all South African surfaces, which can't be eliminated.

Kohli indicated as much at the pre-match press conference. “We have explored many options in the past few months. We don't have too much time left before the World Cup. We just have only a handful of series be-



That ODIs unshackle Indian batsmen — home or away — is best exemplified by Rohit Sharma. While a straggler in Test cricket, he is already a limited-overs great.

fore the World Cup, and not too many matches left. So we want to explore our options further.

“I had said earlier that Ajinkya would be considered as the third opener, but that situation can change. He batted at No. 4 in the previous World Cup. And here in these conditions, you will have to face fast bowling throughout the innings. So Ajinkya becomes a strong candidate to play at No. 4. We have Manish and Shreyas. Kedar (Jadhav) is a No. 5 or No. 6 player. Hardik (Pandya) will bat down the order and of course we have MS (Dhoni),” the skipper said.

Kohli spoke about not being “one-dimensional” in his/team's approach and thought process, picking horses for courses instead. As he mentioned, save the No. 4 and No. 5 slots, India's core for the World Cup is more or less sorted. Rahane at the moment appears to be the team management's best bet to offer middle-order stability.

He has done well in ODIs in the last one year, whenever he got an opportunity. He made 336 runs, including a hundred, in five matches in the West Indies in June-July last year, taking the Man of the Series award. This six-match series might provide him with the chance to cement his place, with an eye on the World Cup.

Coming back to the Wankhede game a little over two years ago, Rahane was India's only shining light in batting as he scored 87 off 58 balls. Three South African hundreds, however, had dwarfed his effort. Quinton de Kock and Faf du Plessis had reached three figures, but AB de Villiers's 119 came off 61 balls and included 11 sixes. Bhuvneshwar Kumar had conceded 106 runs in 10 overs and temporarily lost his place in the Indian team.

A lot has changed since. Kumar is now the team's pace bowling spearhead. Shastri has returned to the fold as head coach. But more importantly, de Villiers has been ruled out of

the first three ODIs here with a finger injury. De Kock hasn't scored a half-century in his last 10 competitive matches, domestic and international combined. India sense an opportunity.

(The poor record) tells a story. It means that there is something difficult for touring teams to come here and get accustomed to. But I feel like this Indian cricket team has got the names on paper to challenge that and get some victories in South Africa. They have proved that in the Test series and they are a quality team. So I expect the same (challenge and intensity) in the ODIs coming up.

— FAF DU PLESSIS

Momin, Mushfiq punish Sri Lanka on placid pitch

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CHITTAGONG, JANUARY 31

MOMINUL HAQUE hit 175 not out as Bangladesh took the upper hand Wednesday in the first test against Sri Lanka, ending the first day on 374-4. Mushfiqur Rahim missed a century by eight runs, out on 92 toward the end of the day, but he and Mominul combined in a partnership of 236, a third-wicket record. Opener Tamim Iqbal chipped in with 52.

“We knew it was a nice wicket to bat on, on day one,” said Tamim. “So it was most important for us not to throw our wickets away. It is normal for a batsman to get overexcited on such a wicket, and play a risky shot.”

Mominul's fifth century bolstered Bangladesh's position after Tamim gave the side a solid start on a placid wicket. Tamim launched Bangladesh's innings in aggressive style, hitting pace bowler Lahiru Kumara for three boundaries in succession in the second over of the day.

Tamim and fellow opener Imrul Kayes shared 72 runs in only 16 overs. The opener reached his 25th 50 off only 46 balls and looked solid until off-spinner Dilruwan Perera bowled him. Tamim hit six fours and one straight six off Perera's bowling.

Kayes made 40 before Sandakan had him leg-before on the stroke of the lunch. But the momentum that Tamim gave was maintained by Mominul. Together with Mushfiqur, he kept Sri Lanka frustrated throughout the second session.

He took only 96 balls to reach his fifth century, the second fastest century for Bangladesh after Tamim Iqbal, who made a 94-ball hundred against England at Lords in 2010.

Double blow

Just when it looked like Bangladesh would end the day without losing a further wicket, Suranga Lakmal dealt a double blow in consecutive deliveries to remove Rahim and Liton Das. Rahim's 92 came off 192 balls, including 10 boundaries.

Captain Mahmudullah and Mominul then saw out the day without any trouble, with the former ending the day on nine.

“I think the last two wickets were big,” Sri Lanka batting coach Thilan Samaweerana said. “We have to put more pressure on Bangladesh in the first session tomorrow, and keep them under 500. I think that'll be a good effort.”

Lakmal claimed 2-43, while Perera and Sandakan picked up one wicket apiece.

Scorecard (Day 1)

BANGLADESH INNINGS: Tamim Iqbal b Perera 52; Imrul Kayes lbw Sandakan 40; Mominul Haque not out 175; Mushfiqur Rahim c Dickwella b Lakmal 92; Liton Das b Lakmal 0; Mahmudullah not out 9; Extras: (2w, 4nb) 6; TOTAL: (For 4 wickets) **374** in 90 overs. Fall of wickets: 1-72, 2-120, 3-356, 4-356. Bowling: Suranga Lakmal 17-3-43-2 (2nb), Lahiru Kumara 12-1-64-0 (1w), Dilruwan Perera 24-4-98-1 (2nb), Rangana Herath 20-1-100-0, Lakshan Sandakan 13-1-58-1 (1w), Dhananjaya de Silva 4-0-11-0.

Vidarbha's Atharva does a Yuvraj

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 31

“THERE WAS a lot of pressure because I had never been this close to a triple ton, and I wanted to get it over with.” Atharva Taide won't be the first batsman to have felt the anxiety of “getting it over with” while in the 290s. For not many batsman really get that far too often, at any level. But here stood Atharva, all of 18, on the cusp of a maiden triple-ton. And the nerves were understandably jangling. But he found the perfect way to deal with them.

He hit the next he faced for four, taking him to 298, and then a quick double through the covers followed. Atharva had reached his summit. And so relieved was he that, “I hit the next ball for four!”

It was an innings that lasted 483 balls, had 34 fours and one six — a calm knock that was against his nature. It also led Vidarbha to a maiden U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy title. In a match that was eventually drawn, it was Atharva's knock that made the difference and provided the crucial first innings lead to his team. Along the way, his 320 also made him the first player since Yuvraj Singh, in the 1999-2000 season, to score a triple-hundred in the final.

The win on Wednesday rounds off an impressive year for Vidarbha on the domestic circuit, as the senior team won their first ever Ranji Trophy just a month earlier.

Madhya Pradesh won the toss and opted to bat before being bundled out for 289. The Vidarbha camp had a target in mind they deemed competitive enough, until Taide — who opened the innings — showed no signs of stopping. “We wanted to score about 450 to get a decent enough lead and bat at least an entire day,” says Atharva, who was eventually



Atharva became the first batsman in nearly two decades to hit a triple hundred in the U-19 Cooch Behar final

bowled in the 181st over of the innings, “But I was in good form, so it just went on and on.” Vidarbha would eventually make 614.

Despite his feat, Atharva insists on having played against his nature. Ideally his innings would have included more boundaries and fewer deliveries. But while fielding on the first day, he pulled a muscle on his right quadriceps. “I'm a typical aggressive ODI batsman, but I couldn't move too well,” Atharva says. “I had to be patient and kept icing it whenever I got the chance. And I had to hit along the ground, but I was still getting runs. So I guess I showed that I can be versatile too.”

Though he likes to be an attack-minded player typical of an age where T20 and the IPL take precedence, his father first noticed a glimpse of his talent through his defensive technique. When he was four, playing tennis-ball cricket with his father in the backyard of their home in Akola, Maharashtra, Atharva batted with a near-perfect stance, had a graceful

back-lift and an even better defensive shot. Explains his father Yayati Taide: “You'd never expect a boy so young, who is playing practically for the first time, to have such a style.”

The senior Taide led a brief discussion within the family, and Atharva was immediately sent for training at the Akola Cricket Club. He'd spend most of his day training with coaches — apart from when he was in school — and at night he'd train in the backyard that his father transformed. “I put up a pitch for him there, complete with nets, bowling machine and floodlights,” says the associate Dean at an agricultural university in Akola.

His routine revolved around cricket. And though his father was a high-standing professional in the world of academia, Atharva was never pressured to go into that route. Before he was recruited by the Vidarbha Cricket Association as a 13-year-old, he'd start the day carrying his cricket kit, school books and school uniform with him to practice. He'd change at the cricket ground and go to school.

“Naturally, his hair would be uncombed and his tie wasn't neat,” Yayati explains. “I never went for the Parent-Teacher meetings. But Atharva's mother would get a lot of complaints from teachers because of it, especially because the teachers knew I too was a professor.”

The youngster's development in the game had become a family affair, and on Wednesday, Atharva's parents and grandparents were all in the stands at Nagpur watching him skipper his side to victory. They didn't get to meet him for long after the match, but Yayati is certain his son would have continued a tradition Atharva had come up with himself. “Every time he got out while batting, he'd take notes in a special notebook about how he got out and the score,” he says. The latest entry would be as follows: bowled, but for 320.

Ashwin, Vijay in TN squad for Vijay Hazare

Chennai: India Test players Ravichandran Ashwin and Murali Vijay were today included in the Tamil Nadu team for Vijay Hazare Trophy Group C League which will be played here from February 5 to 14. The two cricketers were part of the team that went down 1-2 in the three-Test series against South Africa, which concluded recently. While Vijay was never a regular in the India limited-over set up, Ashwin has lost his place in the team and so has Ravindra Jadeja.

The 16-member team led by all-rounder Vijay Shankar will be without the services of experienced keeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik, who is part of the Indian ODI and T20 teams in South Africa. Baba Aparajith is the vice captain, said a TNCA release. Abhinav Mukund, who led the state side in the Ranji Trophy, misses out due to injury.

Meanwhile, young batting sensation Prithvi Shaw has been included in Mumbai's 16-member squad. The Mumbai Cricket Association yesterday announced the squad, led by wicket-keeper batsman Aditya Tare. Apart from Shaw, who is currently leading the India U-19 side in the ICC Cricket World Cup, the squad includes opener Jay Bista, Mumbai's 'go to' man this season Siddhesh Lad, experienced batsmen Surya Kumar Yadav and Akhil Herwadkar.

The bowling attack will be led by Dhawal Kulkarni, who has been named as the vice captain. Medium pacer Akash Parkar, who had a decent last Ranji Trophy season, is also in the squad.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Butt faces scrutiny after tournament he played in comes under scanner

REUTERS/PTI
 DUBAI/KARACHI, JANUARY 31

PAKISTAN'S TAINTED former captain, Salman Butt, and some other Pakistani players are again in the spotlight after the International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption unit confirmed it was investigating the Ajman All Stars T20 League held recently. Butt and Asif who have served five-year bans for spot-fixing between 2010 and 2016 were among a couple of Pakistani players who took part in the private tournament which apparently has caught the attention of the ICC after visuals of some matches were aired, which contained some questionable dismissals and behaviour on part of the players.

The ICC is investigating after footage of some farcical dismissals went viral on social media. A match in the Ajman All Stars League, which is not sanctioned by the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), saw several batsmen appear to throw their wickets in bizarre fashion, by running themselves out or getting stumped without trying to return to the crease, even when the wicketkeeper fumbled. "There is currently an ICC Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) investigation under-

way in relation to the Ajman All Stars League held recently in Ajman, UAE," ACU general manager Alex Marshall said in a statement. "The ICC Anti-Corruption Unit works to uphold integrity in cricket and in keeping with that role, we are talking to players and officials and will not make any further comment at this time."

The Ajman Cricket Council (ACC) has suspended all matches at the Ajman Oval. "We found the Ajman Oval breaching the code more than once and hence we have suspended their affiliation," ACC secretary general Shaji Ul Mulk told *ESPNews*. "We have a zero tolerance policy towards corruption and are cooperating with the ICC in their ongoing investigation."

Former Pakistan players, Hasan Raza, Muhammad Khalil and some others are said to have taken part in the private league which has been disowned and termed as illegal by the Emirates cricket board and Ajman Cricket Council. The footage of the match which apparently was broadcast don't include any of the Pakistani players. Butt who was captain when the spot-fixing scandal broke out in England in late 2010 confirmed he had played two matches of the league.

In the particular game which has come under the scanner of the ICC Anti-Corruption



Butt said that he was not part of the match of which the footage went viral after the ICC opened an investigation.

unit, the Dubai Stars/Bulls were bowled out for just 46 after being set a target of 136 by Sharjah Warriors.
 "I went there as I was not picked for the national regions one-day cup by Lahore and

I was doing nothing. But when I reached there I realised it was just an amateur level event which had no match referee, ICC anti-corruption representative or even scorers," Butt told PTI.

"Since the spot-fixing scandal I try to stay away as far as possible from any related controversies. I am happy the ICC is investigating the event because they were lot of flaws in it. But I played just two games and than went away to Dubai," he explained.

Butt said that he had got out first ball in the first match as he was told to play just three hours after reaching Dubai while in the second match he scored around 70 odd runs. "I don't know the exact score I got since there was no proper scorer around."

Butt made it clear he didn't feature in the match footages which were aired on the social media and had come under scrutiny.

The former captain also disclosed that when he was made an offer to play in the Ajman All Stars League he had told the organisers he would need some time to get NOCs from the PCB and his department, Wapda. "But they told me it was a private tournament and not sanctioned so no NOC was required to play. When I went there I realised it was just a badly managed street level event and it made no sense to me."

BIZARRE STUMPINGS & RUN OUTS



IN THE video clip, a left-handed batsman comes down the track but ditch his attempted shot at the last moment and lets the ball travel to the wicketkeeper, who has enough time on hand to dislodge the bails.

ANOTHER DISMISSAL is effected when the bowler delivers wide but the batsman makes no attempt to get to the pitch of the ball. Instead he swings widely only to be stumped.

RUN OUTS are seemingly stage managed. In the first one shown in the

THE VIDEO clip of the match between Dubai Stars/Bulls and Sharjah Warriors went viral after the ICC announced that it had begun an investigation into the Ajmal All Stars League. The manner of dismissals in the video clip is comical but point to the fact that all was not right in the game.

video clip, the batsman glides the ball to short fine-leg and takes off for a run. Mid-pitch, both he and his partner almost refuse to get to safety. While the batsman finally decides to walk towards the non-striker's end, the non-striker, after giving enough time to the 'keeper to run him out tries to get home.

ANOTHER BATSMAN plays to short third man and starts running after the fielder has collected the ball. The non-striker, in fact, calls for the run but shows no haste.

An athlete's first coach will also be rewarded: PM Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi said that norms have been tweaked when it comes to rewarding coaches whose wards return with medals from international events. As per common practice, the athlete and the current coach are assured of a cash award by the state or central government depending on the stature of the event. But Modi said it was unfair on the coaches, who have trained athletes at the start of their career and had helped them take the first steps.

"It has been noticed that when an athlete returns with a medal, governments announce cash awards. But only the current coach is recognized. It's the right thing to do, but what about those coaches who have unearthed the talent and who have honed their skills at a young age. Now every coach that has contributed towards the progress of the athlete will be eligible for awards," Modi said at the launch of the Khelo India School Games.

The Khelo India Games will witness athletes fight it out in 16 disciplines at various venues in the Capital. According to organisers, 3700 athletes from across the country will take part in the event that began on Wednesday and will run till February 8.

During the opening ceremony, the prime minister said that each year 1,000 athletes will be shortlisted — based on their performance during the Khelo India School Games — and will be provided financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh per annum for 8 years. "The athletes will be provided with the best of the facilities and coaches to train under.They will be provided assistance to train wherever they feel they will get the best inputs," the prime minister added.

Kumar wins first gold

Anu Kumar of Uttarakhand grabbed the first gold medal of the Khelo India School Games as Tamil Nadu bagged two of the six gold medals on offer on the opening day of the athletics competition. The rest of the gold medals were shared between athletes from Uttarakhand, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Anu Kumar, who trains at the Sports College Raipur and is a past 800m silver medalist for India at the World School Games in France, won the 1,500m final comfortably in 4:04.77 seconds at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here. Abhishek Singh of Uttar Pradesh won the shot put gold with a throw of 18.73m while Praveen of Tamil Nadu won the triple jump title in his sixth attempt with 15.22m. Abhishek had four successful throws beyond 18 metres with the best of 18.73 in his second-last attempt which gave him the gold.

Kaushik beats Thapa again, challenges the status quo

GAURAV BHATT
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

BEATING THE favourite once is an upset. Beating him again, rather convincingly, is challenging the status quo. On Wednesday Manish Kaushik did just that, defeating world bronze medalist Shiva Thapa to reach the India Open lightweight final.

"When I beat him at the nationals last year, people may have thought it was an upset. 'Shiva wasn't at his best, *uski body nahi chal rahi thi*'. But now I have beaten him twice, so people will take notice," said Kaushik, who lost the first meeting at the 2016 National Championships. "It was a very close decision which made me realise that I belonged here. I pushed an Olympian and Asian gold-medallist to the limit, and later defeated him. Confidence *aaya ki inko hara sakta hum toh kisi ko bhi hara sakta hum*."

Wednesday's performance will only reinforce the self-assurance. A motivated Thapa — who had earlier said that he is "not looking to settle any scores" — was quicker off the blocks but failed to land cleanly on his elusive southpaw opponent. Kaushik ducked, slipped, grabbed and counter-at-



Manish Kaushik (Red) and Shiva Thapa during the semifinals of the 60 kg category.

tacked, peppering Thapa with quick combinations, on his way to a unanimous verdict. Kaushik will take on Mongolia's Battumur Misheelt in Thursday's summit clash.

Thapa, who made the jump to 60kg last year after competing in the 56kg division for

the majority of his senior career, was visibly smaller of the two boxers, and Kaushik believes his senior will also take time to get acclimatised to the division.

"I have been in 60kg since my junior days. For a guy making the jump, it takes a



HS Prannoy said that he was suffering from corns on his foot and blisters. He went through the motions in his 21-4, 21-6 loss to Shreyansh Jaiswal at the India Open.

One of Prannoy's compatriots who reacted sympathetically to his predicament was Saina Nehwal. She herself is in a pitched battle with the Badminton Association of India (BAI) over her schedule.

Understandably, Prannoy is no fan of the 12-tournament rule, introduced by the BWF for the 2018 season. "There could be a genuine reason for a player skipping a tournament. The BWF rule does not have any flexibility."

One of Prannoy's compatriots who reacted sympathetically to his predicament was Saina Nehwal. She herself is in a pitched battle with the Badminton Association of

India (BAI) over her schedule.

"It is a killing calendar. One needs to give time to the body and not hurry from one tournament to the next. The BWF should have a rethink and reduce the number of tournaments," Saina, who has asked the BAI to allow her to skip the upcoming Asian Team Championships, said.

"I'm not 20 anymore. The sport puts so much strain on the body, and the schedule is so demanding. When I hear comments like 'Saina lost' and 'Saina is out of form', I cry sometimes. I have always played for India and have always won my matches in the Uber Cup. Now I want to be in the best possible shape for the Commonwealth and Asian Games," Saina said.

Saina, Sindhu advance

Saina was among the Indian stars who

Unusual scheduling on Day One

New Delhi: Home shuttlers are always the prime attractions at the India Open. Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth have all won the tournament in the past, and playing in front of big supportive crowds often brings out the best in them. That is why organisers, more often than not, schedule their matches towards the evening when there is the likelihood of more people coming in.

But this was not the case in the first round of the 2018 edition. Saina was scheduled to play at 12.20 pm, Sindhu at 1 pm and Srikanth at 1.40 pm. Even allowing for the expected delays due to the number of matches on the first day, all three Indian stars were free by well before 3 pm.

The strange piece of scheduling coincided with the Khelo India Games being inaugurated the same evening. Only Sindhu confirmed after her match that she was going for the function. She and national chief coach Pullela Gopichand have appeared in promotional campaigns for Khelo India. **ENS**

made it to the second round of the India Open. She was tested in the early stages by Dane Sofie Holmboe Dahl before prevailing 21-15, 21-9. World No.3 PV Sindhu, the top seed here, defeated another Dane, Natalia Koch Rohde 21-10, 21-13.

Second seed on the men's side, Kidambi Srikanth came through 21-17, 21-18 against Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong. Another Indian, B Sai Praneeth edged past Rajiv Ouseph of England 21-11, 17-21, 21-17. Parupalli Kashyap had a good win against higher-ranked Dane, Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus 21-14, 21-18.

A contender for the women's crown, Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon thrashed India's Rasika Raje 21-14, 21-6.

KEY RESULTS: PV Sindhu (INDx1) bt Natalia Koch Rohde (DEN) 21-10, 21-13; Saina Nehwal (INDx4) bt Sofie Holmboe Dahl (DEN) 21-15 21-9; Ratchanok Intanon (THAx3) bt Rasika Raje (IND) 21-4, 21-6; Carolina Marin (ESPx2) bt Mattana Hemrachatanun (THA) 21-15, 21-11 Kidambi Srikanth (INDx2) bt Lee Cheuk Yiu (HKG) 21-17, 21-18; Chou Tien Chen (TPEx3) bt Rasmus Gemke (DEN) 21-16, 21-15; B. Sai Praneeth (INDx8) bt Rajiv Ouseph (ENG) 21-11, 17-21, 21-17; Shi Yuqi (CHNx4) bt Sourabh Verma (IND) 21-19, 21-11; Shreyansh Jaiswal (IND) bt HS Prannoy (INDx5) 21-4, 21-6.

Zhang has recently hired a personal coach and plans to take the next step in the sport. The 27-year-old has played in the Premier Badminton League and also competes as a professional in Denmark.

"My goal for 2018 is to win a Super Series title. I came close in 2016 when I lost in the French Open final to He Bingjiao."

Going all alone has forced Zhang to often play with injuries. "I have a torn ligament in my right ankle which needs rest, but I have to play through it," she said.

But whatever the consequences, one thing is certain. Zhang will not regret the choices she has made.



Beiwen Zhang, the World No.10, beat India's Vaishnavi Reddy 21-19, 20-22, 21-12 on Wednesday.

Arsenal add teeth to their attack

Gunners complete the signing of Aubameyang for a club-record \$80 mn after losing to Swansea in the Premier League

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON, JANUARY 31

PIERRE-EMERICK Aubameyang joined Arsenal from Borussia Dortmund for a club record fee of £56 million (63.7 million euros, 79.2 million euros) today, in the biggest deal so far on transfer deadline day.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger -- who last August kept the football world on tenterhooks as he held out selling Alexis Sanchez to Manchester City because he failed to secure Thomas Lemar from Monaco -- did not wait until the last minute to land the Gabon striker.

Wenger persuaded the Arsenal board to pay more for the 28-year-old than the £46.5 million they shelled out for Frenchman Alexandre Lacazette last August.

Dortmund have eyed up a six-month loan move for Belgian international Michy Batshuayi from champions Chelsea, who have stipulated there will be no option to buy at the end of that period. "Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has joined us from Borussia Dortmund on a long-term contract for a club-record fee," the statement from Arsenal said.

The club described him as "one of the world's most highly-rated strikers". "He scored 98 goals in 144 Bundesliga games for Dortmund and had a hand in 172 goals in 213 matches in all competitions for his former club," it continued.

Aubameyang's arrival should see French veteran Olivier Giroud completing the musical chairs by signing for Chelsea even though Wenger was loathe to let him move to a rival as Sanchez joined Manchester United earlier this month.

However, the French striker is keen to stay in London as he seeks regular first team action to secure his place in France's World Cup squad.



Swansea City's Kyle Naughton (R) and Arsenal's Nacho Monreal vie for the ball during their EPL match on Tuesday. Reuters

Aubameyang will alleviate the pressure on Lacazette although he would be ineligible for the Europa League having already played in the Champions League this campaign.

City sign Laporte for record fee

It's not just the top clubs involved in the frenetic last few hours of a January that apart from Sanchez becoming the highest-paid player in the league -- on a reported pre-tax £500,000 a week -- has seen City pay a record fee of £57 million for young French centre-back Aymeric Laporte from Athletic Bilbao.

Tottenham too are getting close to signing Brazilian Lucas



Aubameyang is ineligible for Europa League since he has played Champions League this season. File

98 Number of goals Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has scored in the German League. 97 of them have been scored from inside the box.

Moura, who has fallen out of favour at French giants Paris Saint Germain with the arrivals of Neymar and Kylian Mbappe.

The 25-year-old has according to reports passed his medical and would be the fifth most expensive signing in the club's history -- PSG would like the majority of the £26.5 million fee paid up front.

Those fighting to remain in the cash-rich upper echelon will also get in on the act with Swansea -- whose win over Liverpool saw them move out of the bottom three -- seeking to bring Ghanaian striker Andre Ayew back to Wales.

The Swans are hoping to sign the 28-year-old for around £18million according to the London Evening Standard -- having sold him to the Hammers for £20.5 million in 2016 -- but the London side who have only Javier Hernandez as their one fit striker will want to bring in a replacement.

Watford's long-time servant Troy Deeney could fill the void and is valued at £16 million to leave the club he has been with since 2010.

DEADLINE-DAY DRAMA

GIROUD JOINS CHELSEA: Olivier Giroud has joined Chelsea from Premier League rival Arsenal. The 31-year-old France striker joined for a reported \$25 million on an 18-month contract.

U-17 WC STAR JOINS DORTMUND: Chelsea's Michy Batshuayi has joined Dortmund until the end of the season on loan. The German club has also signed Sergio Gomez from Barcelona. Gomez was voted the second best player at the Under-17 World Cup in India in October.

NO CITY MOVE FOR MAHREZ: Manchester City have walked away from a proposed deal for Leicester City's Riyad Mahrez after refusing to sanction a transfer package that would have cost £95m. City do not view themselves as having made an offer after Leicester City came to them with a proposal that would have also included a player.

OZIL EXTENDS CONTRACT: Arsenal midfielder Mesut Ozil has signed a new three-and-a-half-year deal to stay at the club until 2021. Ozil, 29, becomes the highest -- paid player in the club's history -- earning about £350,000 a week.

Russia to organise event for banned Olympic athletes

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
MOSCOW, JANUARY 31

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin has ordered the government to organise a sports competition for Russian athletes banned from the upcoming Winter Games in Pyeongchang over a doping scandal, his spokesman said today.

Putin "reminded the cabinet of the decision to organise a competition for those of our athletes who had not been allowed to take part in the Olympic Games," Russian news agencies quoted Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying. He added that winning athletes would receive compensation equal to what Moscow normally awards Olympic medallists. The International Olympic Committee banned Russia from next month's event in South Korea after a report on a vast Moscow-backed doping scheme in previous Games.

Olympic officials have cleared 169 Russian athletes for competition in Pyeongchang. They will compete under a neutral flag as "Olympic Athletes from Russia." Peskov spoke to reporters after Putin earlier Wednesday met with Russian athletes set to join Pyeongchang Games and said he was sorry "for not having been able to shield" them from the doping scandal.

Pro-Kremlin newspaper Izvestiya reported this week that the alternative competition for banned athletes would take place in the Black Sea resort of Sochi which hosted the 2014 Winter Olympic Games.

The 23rd Winter Olympics will open in Pyeongchang, South Korea, on February 9, featuring 102 events in 15 sports and athletes from all over the world.

Putin sorry for not 'shielding' athletes

Earlier in the day, Putin told Russian Olympic athletes that he was sorry his government had not protected them from the fallout of a doping scandal. Speaking to athletes set to take part in the Pyeongchang Games, the Kremlin leader also denounced as "strange" the exclusion of many Russian athletes from the upcoming Winter Olympics over doping.

"Forgive us for not having been able to shield you from



Russian President Vladimir Putin with the ice hockey team on Wednesday. AP

Forgive us for not having been able to shield you from this. For us certain things (dope scandal fallout) are truly strange."

VLADIMIR PUTIN
PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

this," Putin said, adding that the scandal had contributed to "very difficult conditions" for athletes.

The International Olympic Committee banned Russia from the 2018 Olympics after a report on a vast, Moscow-backed doping scheme in previous Games. "For us certain things are truly strange," Putin said in televised remarks. "I wish you luck," Putin said, adding he wanted them to be "courageous". "Hundreds of thousands, millions of fans who love you are watching you," he added.

CAS to announce appeal verdicts today

The verdicts on appeals from 39 Russian athletes who were given lifetime Olympic bans for doping violations at the 2014 Sochi Games will be announced on Thursday, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said in a statement on Wednesday.

CAS said that its secretary general Matthieu Reeb would make a statement in Pyeongchang, South Korea, where the tribunal has set up a temporary office for next month's Winter Olympics. The decisions will also be issued on its website, CAS said.

Formula One to stop using female models on the grid

REUTERS
LONDON, JANUARY 31

FORMULA ONE is ending the use of female models who parade and stand with the drivers' name boards before every grand prix, with immediate effect.

The sport announced the decision in a statement on Wednesday and said the change would also apply to all support series on the programme. "While the practice of employing grid girls has been a staple of Formula One grands prix for decades, we feel this custom does not resonate with our

brand values and clearly is at odds with modern day societal norms," said commercial manager Sean Bratches.

"We don't believe the practice is appropriate or relevant to Formula One and its fans, old and new, across the world," he added. Formula One has not had a woman race driver on the starting grid since the 1970s but is far more mixed off the track, with female engineers and mechanics as well as in media and marketing.

Two of the 10 teams have had female bosses, including former champions Williams, and Formula One management has



File photo of F1 grid girls at Monaco GP. The practice has been discontinued with immediate effect. AP

a number of women in senior positions. The use of female models, even if not as scantily-

clad as in the past, has been increasingly criticised in a sport that is now under U.S.-based

ownership following Liberty Media's takeover last year.

Liberty, who ousted former supremo Bernie Ecclestone a year ago, have been looking to make the pre-race show more of a feature with the emphasis on entertainment for fans and promotion. "Formula One considers the time spent by teams and drivers on the grid before a race as one of celebration, where guests and various performers can add to the glamour and spectacle of the Grand Prix," the statement said.

It added that the change would allow promoters and partners "to showcase their

countries and products".

Ross Brawn, Formula One's managing director for motor-sport, gave notice last December that the use of female models on the grid was under review for the season starting in Australia on March 25.

"There's a lot of people respect the tradition of the grid girls and there's people who feel that it has become a bit dated, so we're addressing that," he told the BBC at the time. In 2015, men were deployed in place of the women at the Monaco Grand Prix -- a move welcomed by some fans and deplored by others.

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